MARVEL
THE NEW MUTANTS
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THE NEW MUTANTS
OLD

Stan Lee presents
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
Starring the NEW MUTANTS
BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA-- THE PAST...
WITH THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON, VIPER'S BOOBY-TRAPPED ESTATE-- PERCHED ON A CLIFF-TOP OVERLOOKING THE PACIFIC OCEAN--
--BLEW SKY-HIGH!
THE NEW MUTANTS HAD COME TO RESCUE A KIDNAPPED TEAM-MATE. VIPER MEANT TO SEE THE ATTEMPT COST THEIR YOUNG LIVES.
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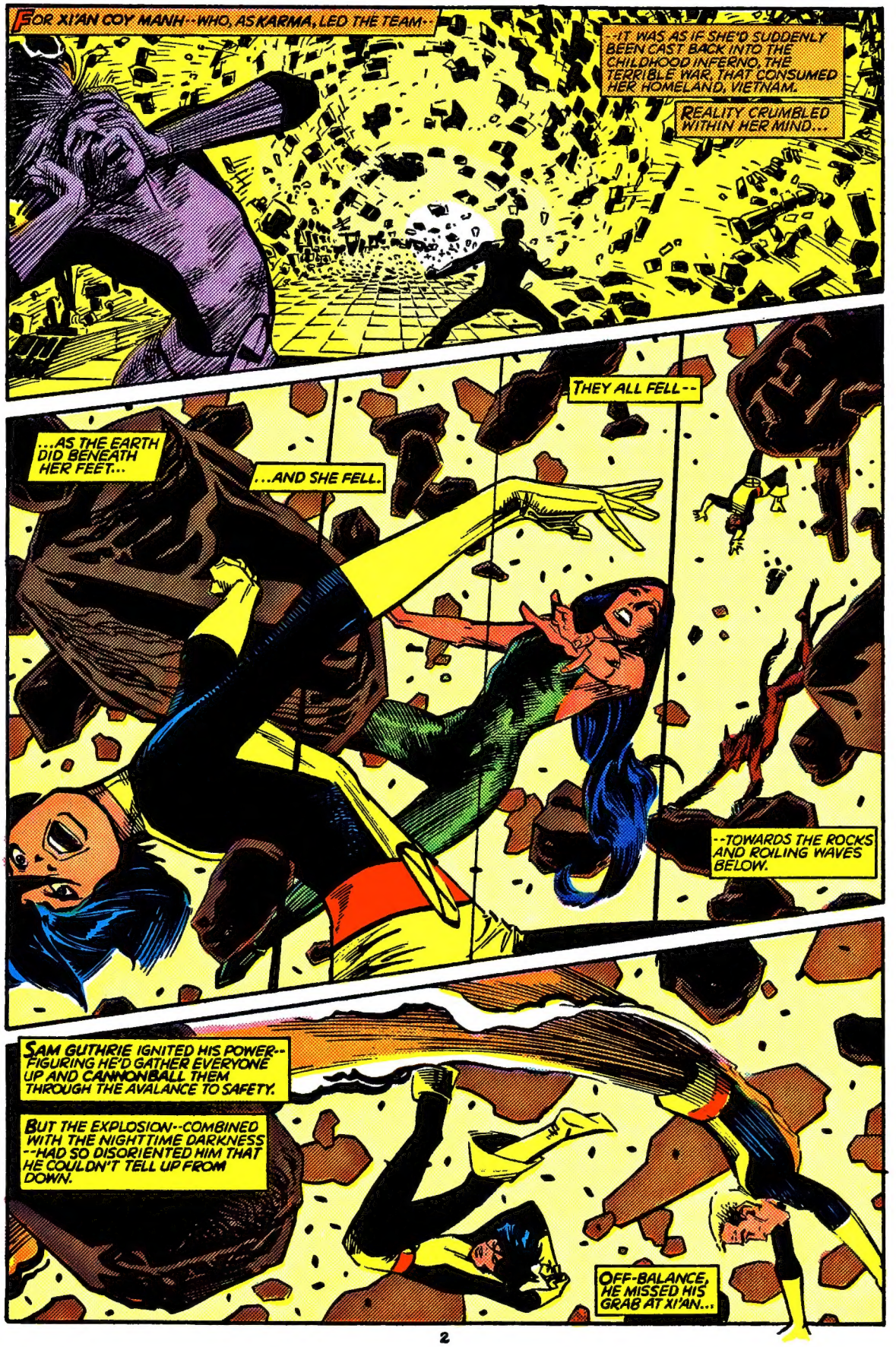
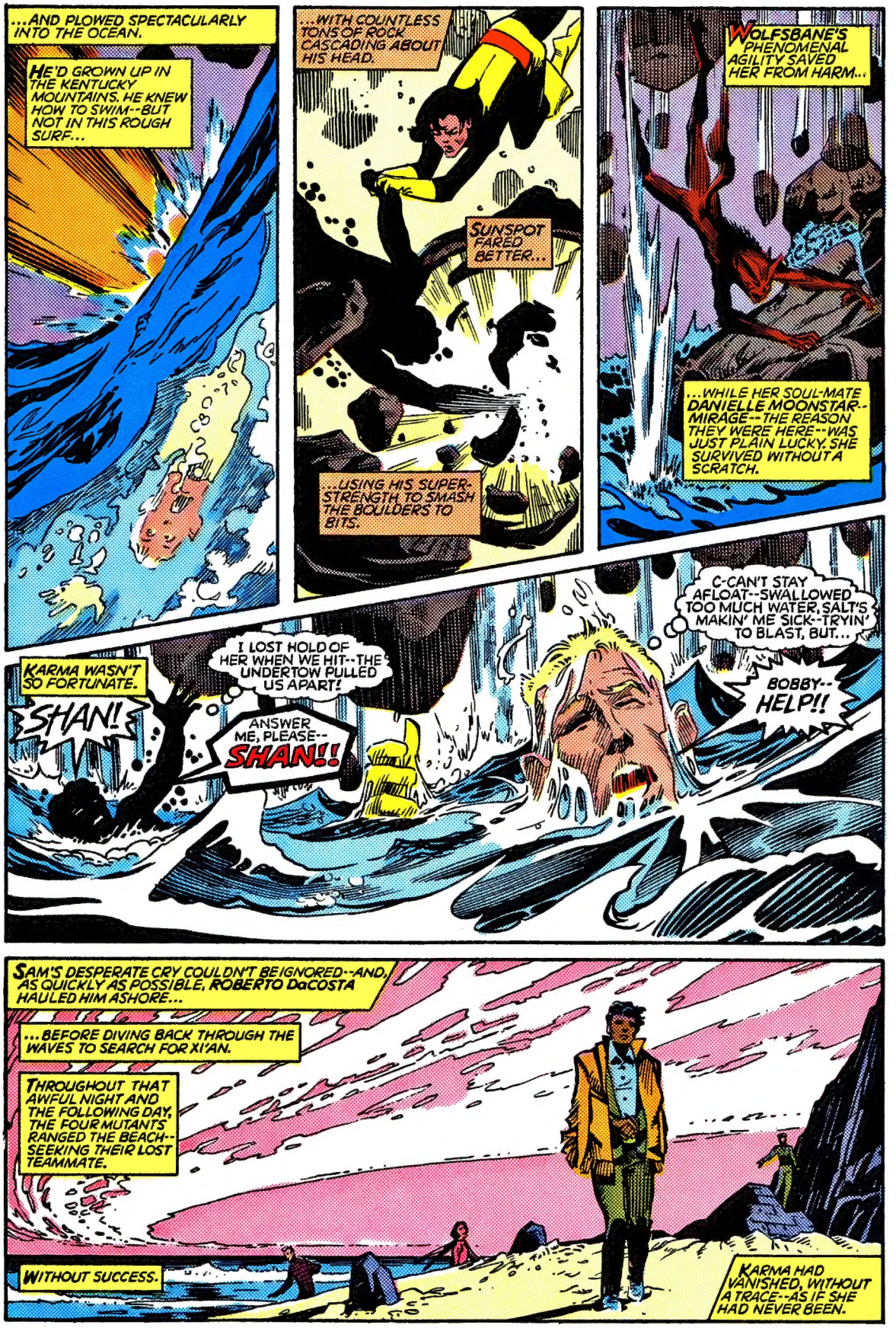
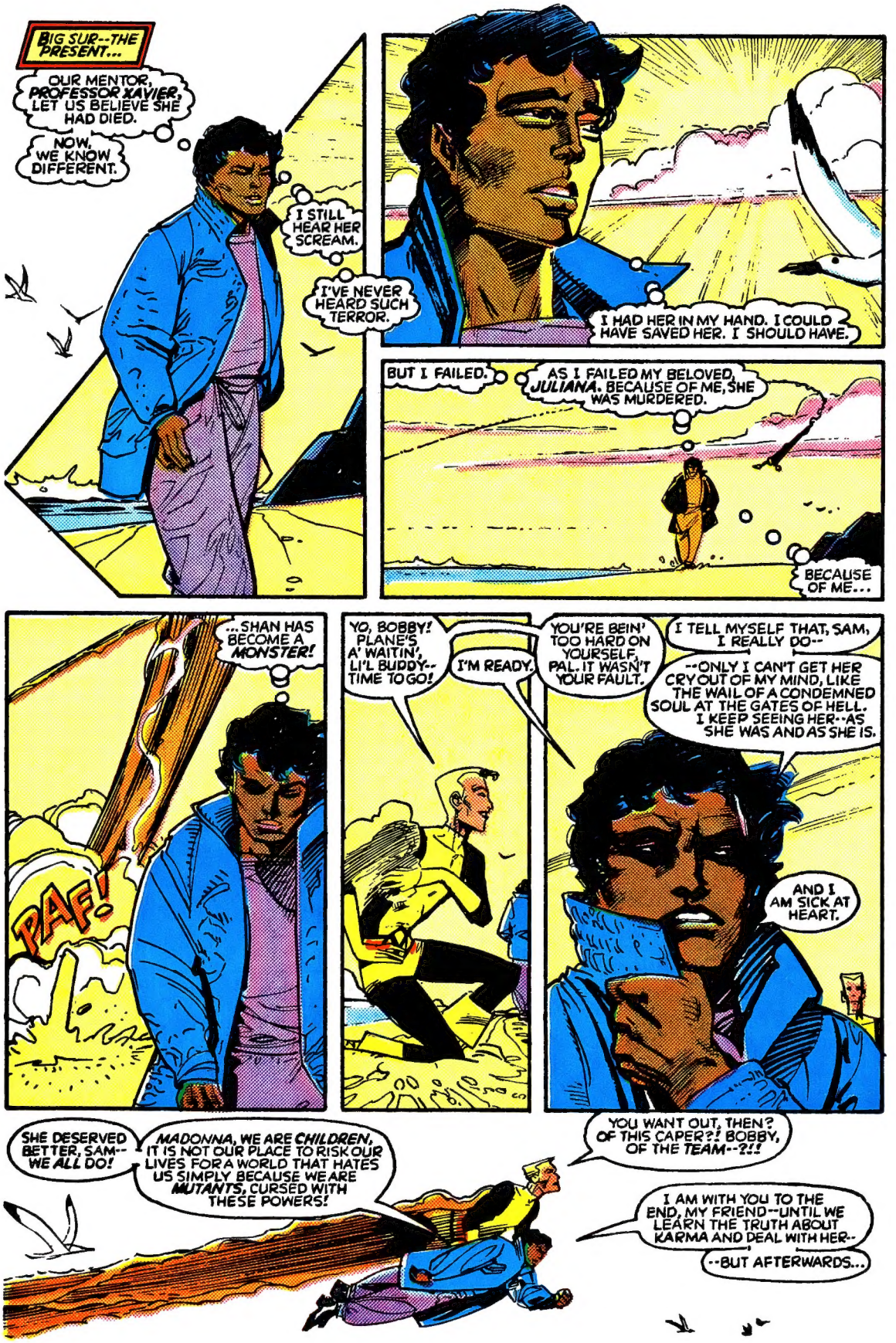
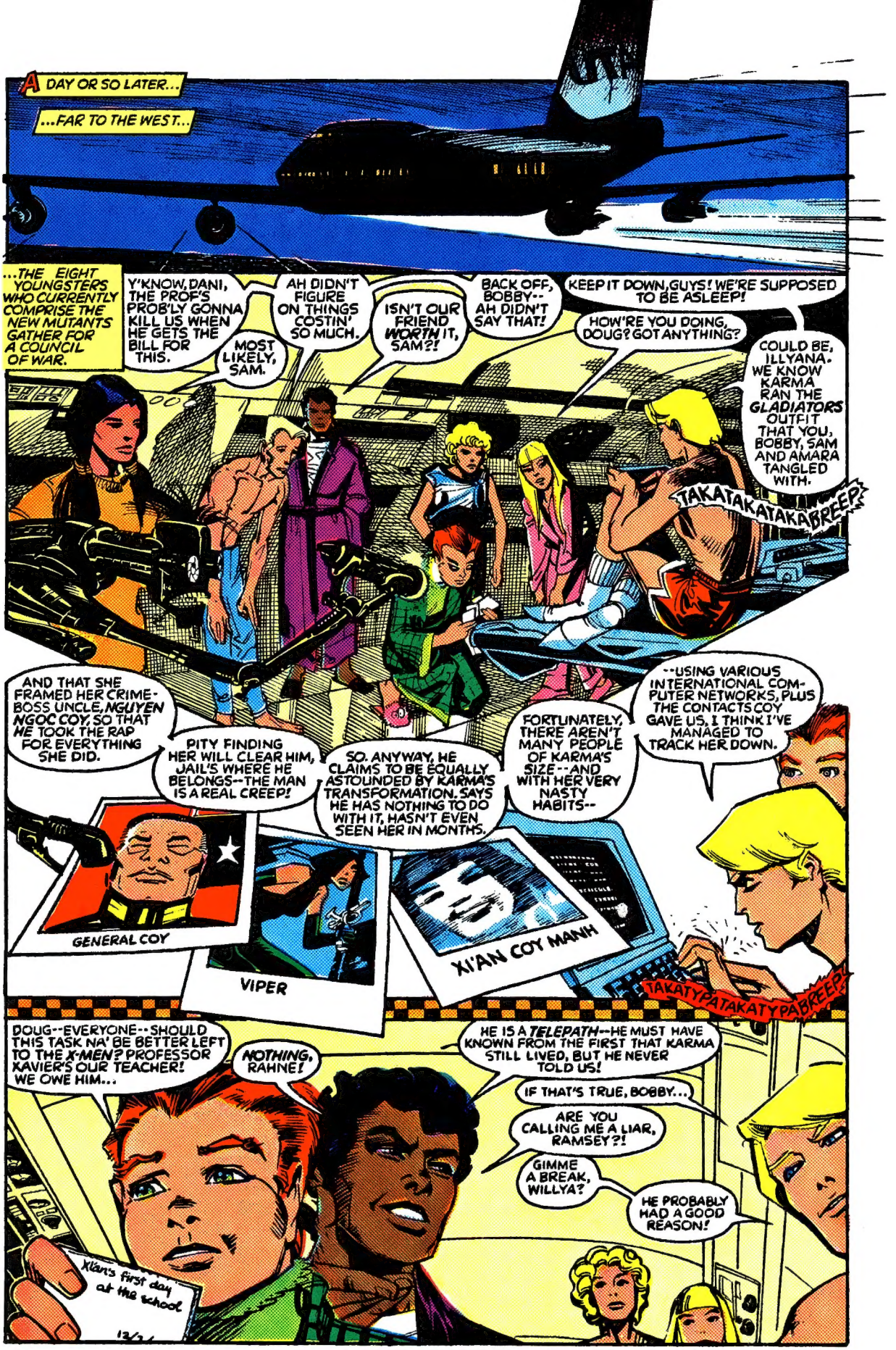
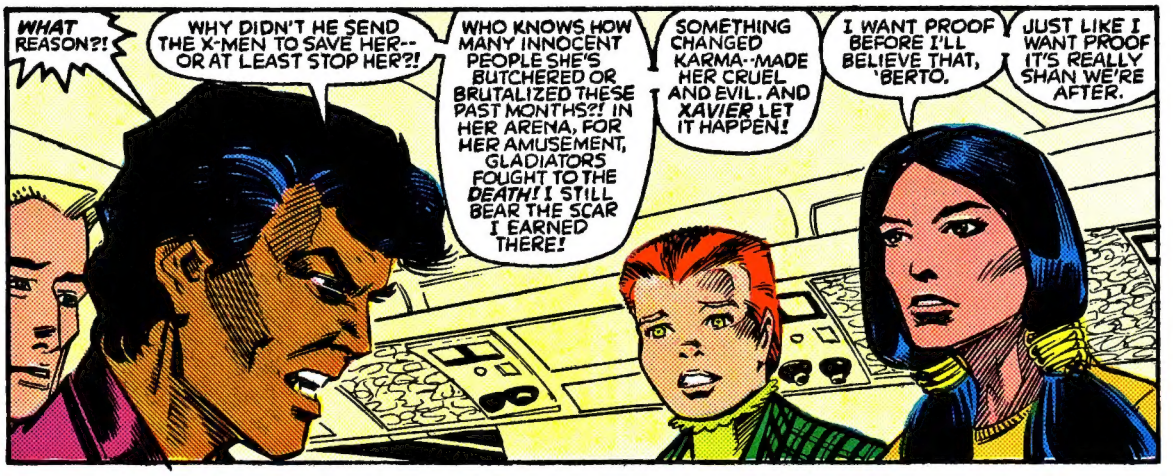
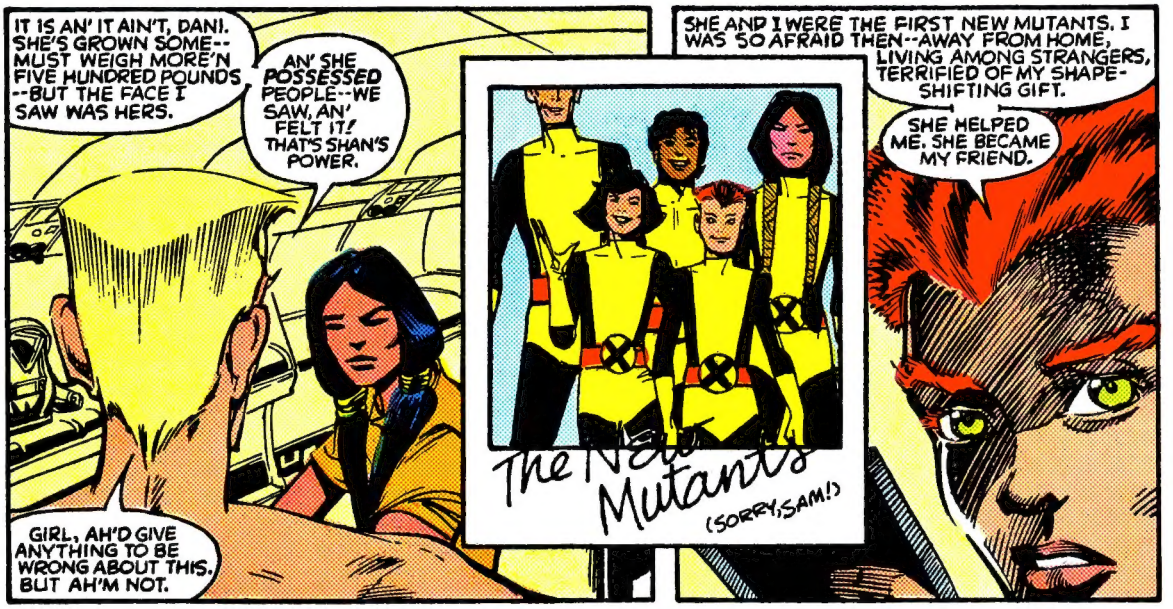

FOR XI'AN COY MANH--WHO, AS KARMA, LED THE TEAM--
--IT WAS AS IF SHE'D SUDDENLY BEEN CAST BACK INTO THE CHILDHOOD INFERNO, THE TERRIBLE WAR, THAT CONSUMED HER HOMELAND, VIETNAM.
REALITY CRUMBLED WITHIN HER MIND...
THEY ALL FELL--
...AS THE EARTH DID BENEATH HER FEET...
...AND SHE FELL.
--TOWARDS THE ROCKS AND ROILING WAVES BELOW.
SAM GUTHRIE IGNITED HIS POWER--FIGURING HE'D GATHER EVERYONE UP AND CANNONBALL THEM THROUGH THE AVALANCE TO SAFETY.
BUT THE EXPLOSION--COMBINED WITH THE NIGHTTIME DARKNESS --HAD SO DISORIENTED HIM THAT HE COULDN'T TELL UP FROM DOWN.
OFF-BALANCE, HE MISSED HIS GRAB AT XI'AN...


...AND PLOWED SPECTACULARLY INTO THE OCEAN.
HE'D GROWN UP IN THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS. HE KNEW HOW TO SWIM--BUT NOT IN THIS ROUGH SURF...
...WITH COUNTLESS TONS OF ROCK CASCADING ABOUT HIS HEAD.
SUNSPOT FARED BETTER...
...USING HIS SUPER-STRENGTH TO SMASH THE BOULDERS TO BITS.
WOLFSBANE'S PHENOMENAL AGILITY SAVED HER FROM HARM...
...WHILE HER SOUL-MATE DANIELLE MOONSTAR--MIRAGE--THE REASON THEY WERE HERE--WAS JUST PLAIN LUCKY. SHE SURVIVED WITHOUT A SCRATCH.
KARMA WASN'T SO FORTUNATE.
SHAN!
I LOST HOLD OF HER WHEN WE HIT--THE UNDERTOW PULLED US APART!
ANSWER ME, PLEASE--SHAN!!
C-CAN'T STAY AFLOAT--SWALLOWED TOO MUCH WATER, SALT'S MAKIN' ME SICK--TRYIN' TO BLAST, BUT...
BOBBY--HELP!!
SAM'S DESPERATE CRY COULDN'T BE IGNORED--AND, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, ROBERTO DaCOSTA HAULED HIM ASHORE...
...BEFORE DIVING BACK THROUGH THE WAVES TO SEARCH FOR XI'AN.
THROUGHOUT THAT AWFUL NIGHT AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE FOUR MUTANTS RANGED THE BEACH--SEEKING THEIR LOST TEAMMATE.
WITHOUT SUCCESS.
KARMA HAD VANISHED, WITHOUT A TRACE--AS IF SHE HAD NEVER BEEN.

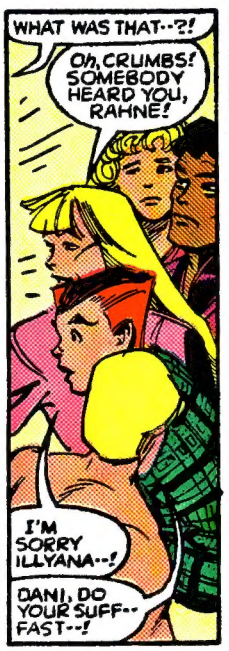

BIG SUR--THE PRESENT...
OUR MENTOR, PROFESSOR XAVIER, LET US BELIEVE SHE HAD DIED.
NOW, WE KNOW DIFFERENT.
I STILL HEAR HER SCREAM.
I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH TERROR.
I HAD HER IN MY HAND. I COULD HAVE SAVED HER. I SHOULD HAVE.
BUT I FAILED.
AS I FAILED MY BELOVED, JULIANA. BECAUSE OF ME, SHE WAS MURDERED.
BECAUSE OF ME...
...SHAN HAS BECOME A MONSTER!
PAF!
YO, BOBBY! PLANE'S A' WAITIN', LI'L BUDDY--TIME TO GO!
I'M READY.
YOU'RE BEIN' TOO HARD ON YOURSELF, PAL. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
I TELL MYSELF THAT, SAM, I REALLY DO--
--ONLY I CAN'T GET HER CRY OUT OF MY MIND, LIKE THE WAIL OF A CONDEMNED SOUL AT THE GATES OF HELL. I KEEP SEEING HER--AS SHE WAS AND AS SHE IS.
AND I AM SICK AT HEART.
SHE DESERVED BETTER, SAM--WE ALL DO!
MADONNA, WE ARE CHILDREN, IT IS NOT OUR PLACE TO RISK OUR LIVES FOR A WORLD THAT HATES US SIMPLY BECAUSE WE ARE MUTANTS, CURSED WITH THESE POWERS!
YOU WANT OUT, THEN? OF THIS CAPER?! BOBBY, OF THE TEAM--?!!
I AM WITH YOU TO THE END, MY FRIEND--UNTIL WE LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT KARMA AND DEAL WITH HER--
--BUT AFTERWARDS...

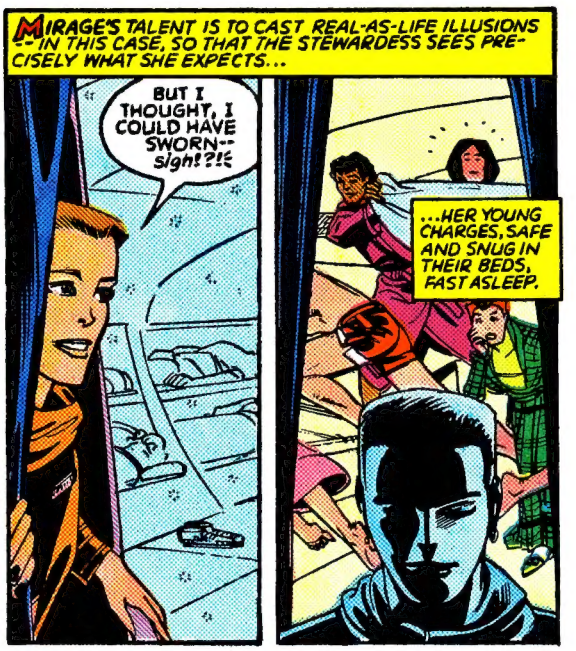

A DAY OR SO LATER...
...FAR TO THE WEST...
...THE EIGHT YOUNGSTERS WHO CURRENTLY COMPRISE THE NEW MUTANTS GATHER FOR A COUNCIL OF WAR.
Y'KNOW, DANI, THE PROF'S PROB'LY GONNA KILL US WHEN HE GETS THE BILL FOR THIS.
MOST LIKELY, SAM.
AH DIDN'T FIGURE ON THINGS COSTIN' SO MUCH.
ISN'T OUR FRIEND WORTH IT, SAM?!
BACK OFF, BOBBY-- AH DIDN'T SAY THAT!
KEEP IT DOWN, GUYS! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ASLEEP!
HOW'RE YOU DOING, DOUG? GOT ANYTHING?
COULD BE, ILLYANA. WE KNOW KARMA RAN THE GLADIATORS OUTFIT THAT YOU, BOBBY, SAM AND AMARA TANGLED WITH.
TAKATAKATAKABREEP!
AND THAT SHE FRAMED HER CRIME-BOSS UNCLE, NGUYEN NGOC COY, SO THAT HE TOOK THE RAP FOR EVERYTHING SHE DID.
PITY FINDING HER WILL CLEAR HIM, JAIL'S WHERE HE BELONGS--THE MAN IS A REAL CREEP!
SO. ANYWAY, HE CLAIMS TO BE EQUALLY ASTOUNDED BY KARMA'S TRANSFORMATION. SAYS HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, HASN'T EVEN SEEN HER IN MONTHS.
FORTUNATELY, THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE OF KARMA'S SIZE--AND WITH HER VERY NASTY HABITS--
--USING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER NETWORKS, PLUS THE CONTACTS COY GAVE US, I THINK I'VE MANAGED TO TRACK HER DOWN.
GENERAL COY
VIPER
XI'AN COY MANH
TAKATYPATAKATYPABREEP!
DOUG--EVERYONE--SHOULD THIS TASK NA' BE BETTER LEFT TO THE X-MEN? PROFESSOR XAVIER'S OUR TEACHER! WE OWE HIM...
NOTHING, RAHNE!
HE IS A TELEPATH--HE MUST HAVE KNOWN FROM THE FIRST THAT KARMA STILL LIVED, BUT HE NEVER TOLD US!
IF THAT'S TRUE, BOBBY...
ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR, RAMSEY?!
GIMME A BREAK, WILLYA?
HE PROBABLY HAD A GOOD REASON!
Xian's first day at the school
13/3/

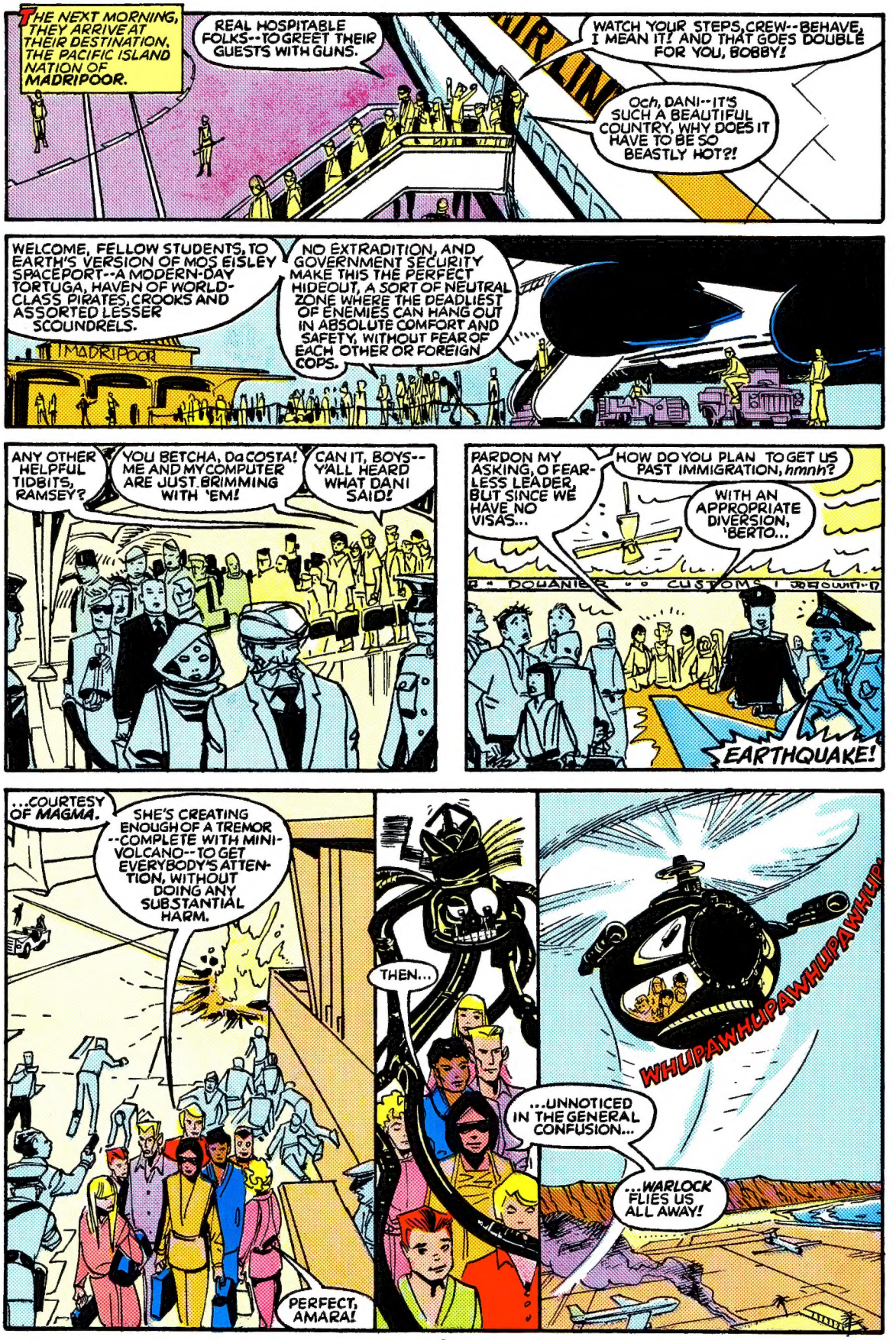

WHAT REASON?!
WHY DIDN'T HE SEND THE X-MEN TO SAVE HER--OR AT LEAST STOP HER?!
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE SHE'S BUTCHERED OR BRUTALIZED THESE PAST MONTHS?! IN HER ARENA, FOR HER AMUSEMENT, GLADIATORS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH! I STILL BEAR THE SCAR I EARNED THERE!
SOMETHING CHANGED KARMA--MADE HER CRUEL AND EVIL. AND XAVIER LET IT HAPPEN!
I WANT PROOF BEFORE I'LL BELIEVE THAT, 'BERTO.
JUST LIKE I WANT PROOF IT'S REALLY SHAN WE'RE AFTER.

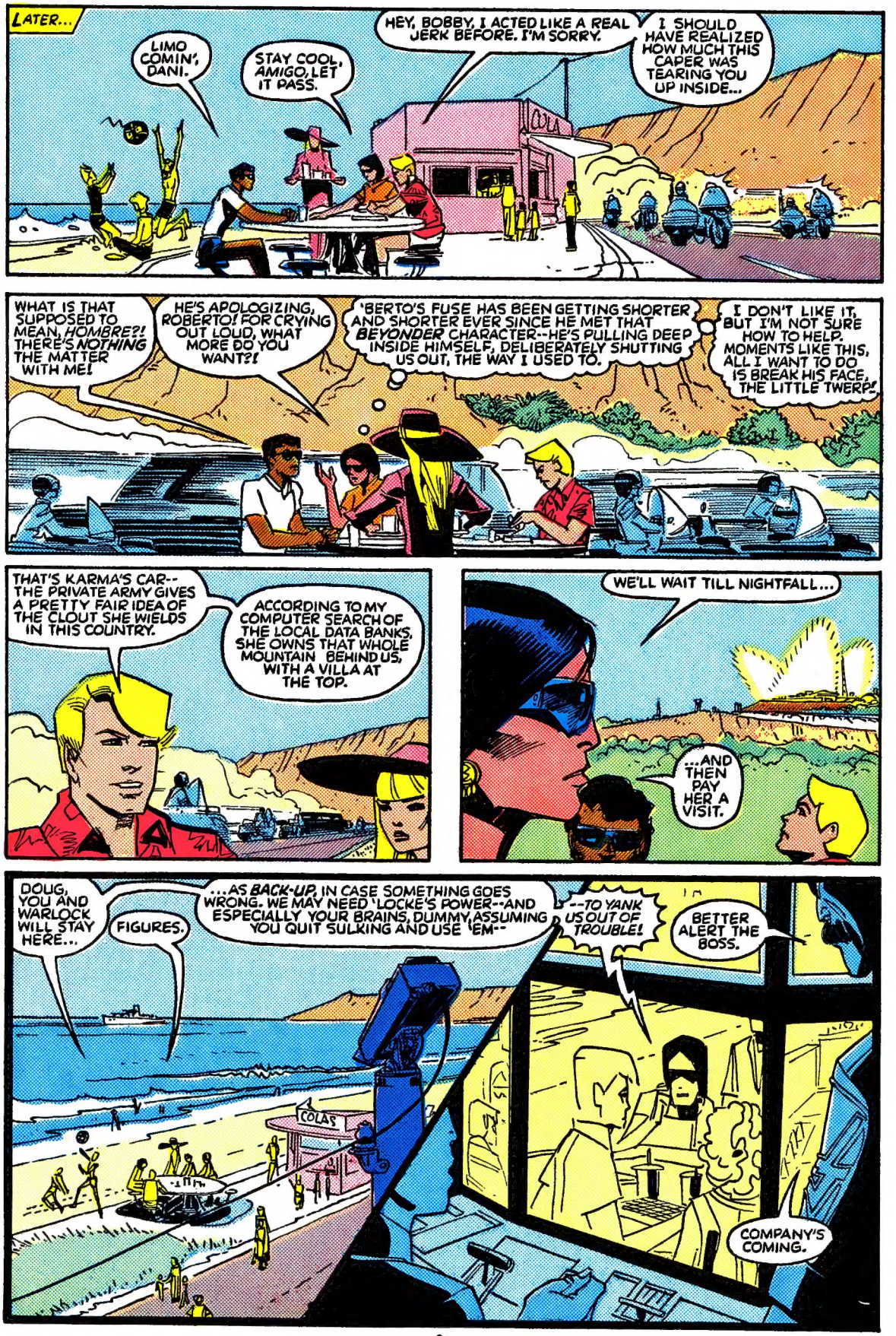

IT IS AN' IT AIN'T, DANI. SHE'S GROWN SOME--MUST WEIGH MORE'N FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS--BUT THE FACE I SAW WAS HERS.
AN' SHE POSSESSED PEOPLE--WE SAW, AN' FELT IT! THAT'S SHAN'S POWER.
GIRL, AH'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE WRONG ABOUT THIS. BUT AH'M NOT.
The New Mutants
(SORRY, SAM!)
SHE AND I WERE THE FIRST NEW MUTANTS. I WAS SO AFRAID THEN--AWAY FROM HOME, LIVING AMONG STRANGERS, TERRIFIED OF MY SHAPE-SHIFTING GIFT.
SHE HELPED ME. SHE BECAME MY FRIEND.

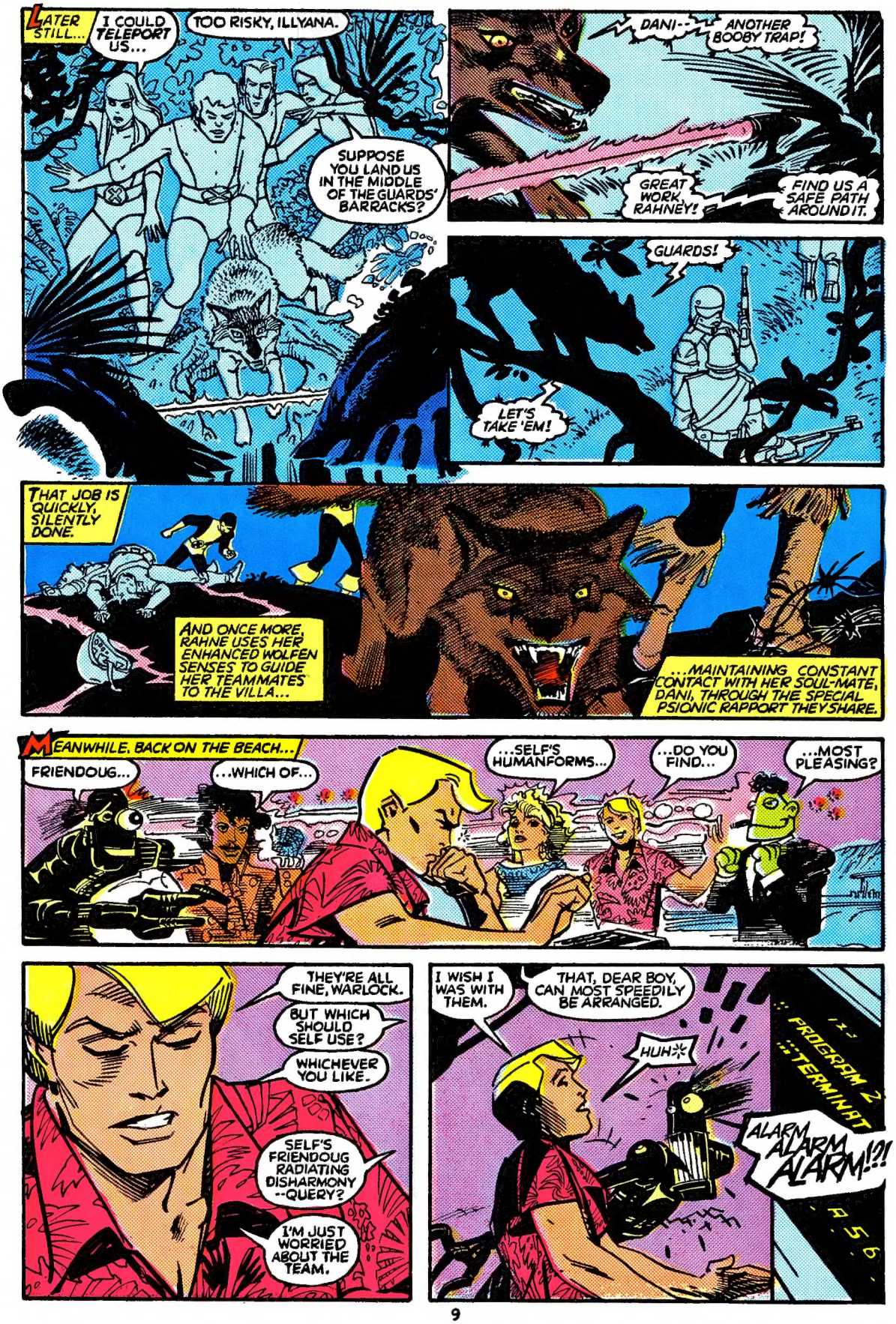
I CANNA BELIEVE SHE'D WILLINGLY BECOME EVIL. SOMEBODY DID THIS TO HER!
THEY HAD TO!

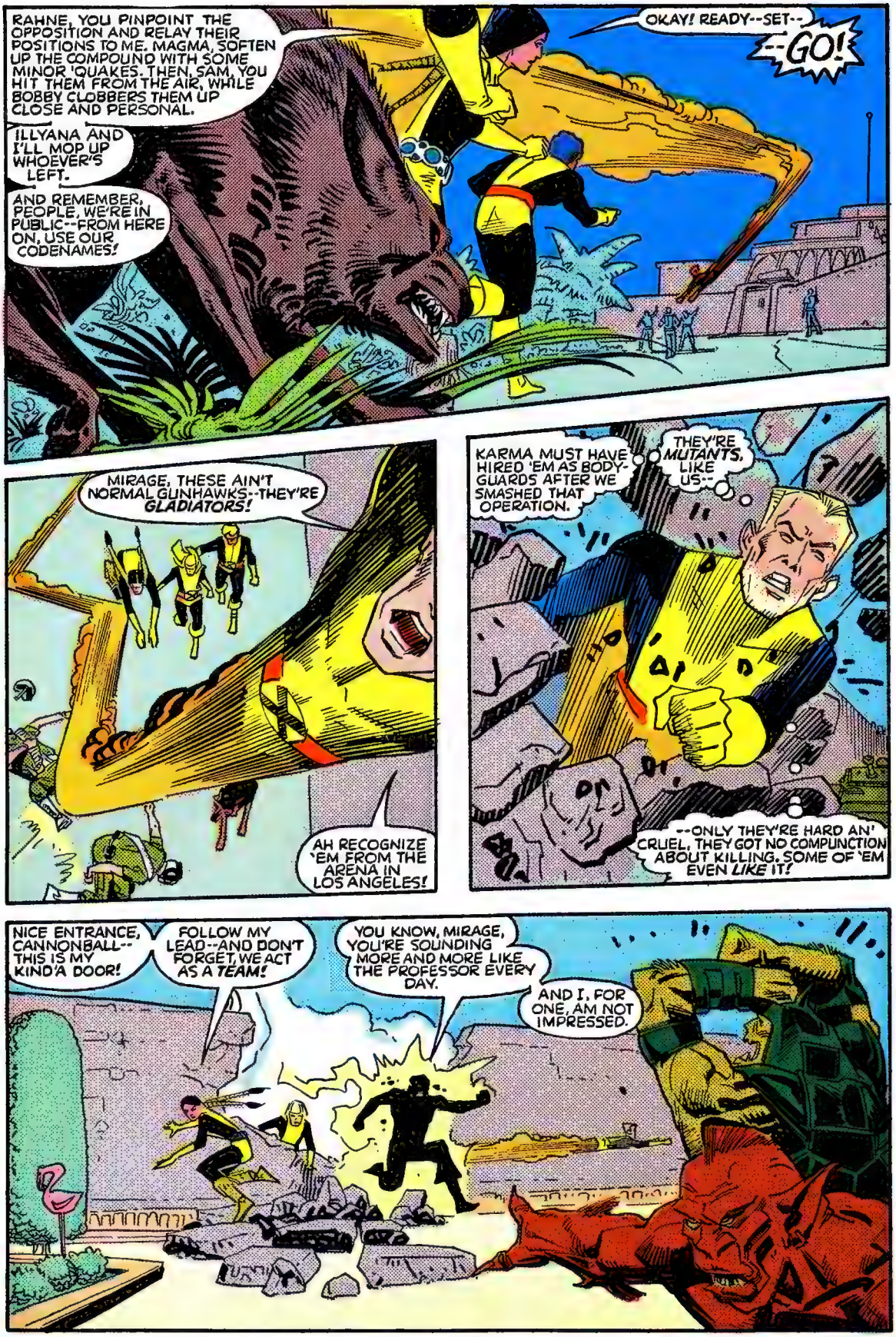

WHAT WAS THAT--?!
OH, CRUMBS! SOMEBODY HEARD YOU, RAHNE!
I'M SORRY ILLYANA--!
DANI, DO YOUR STUFF--FAST--!

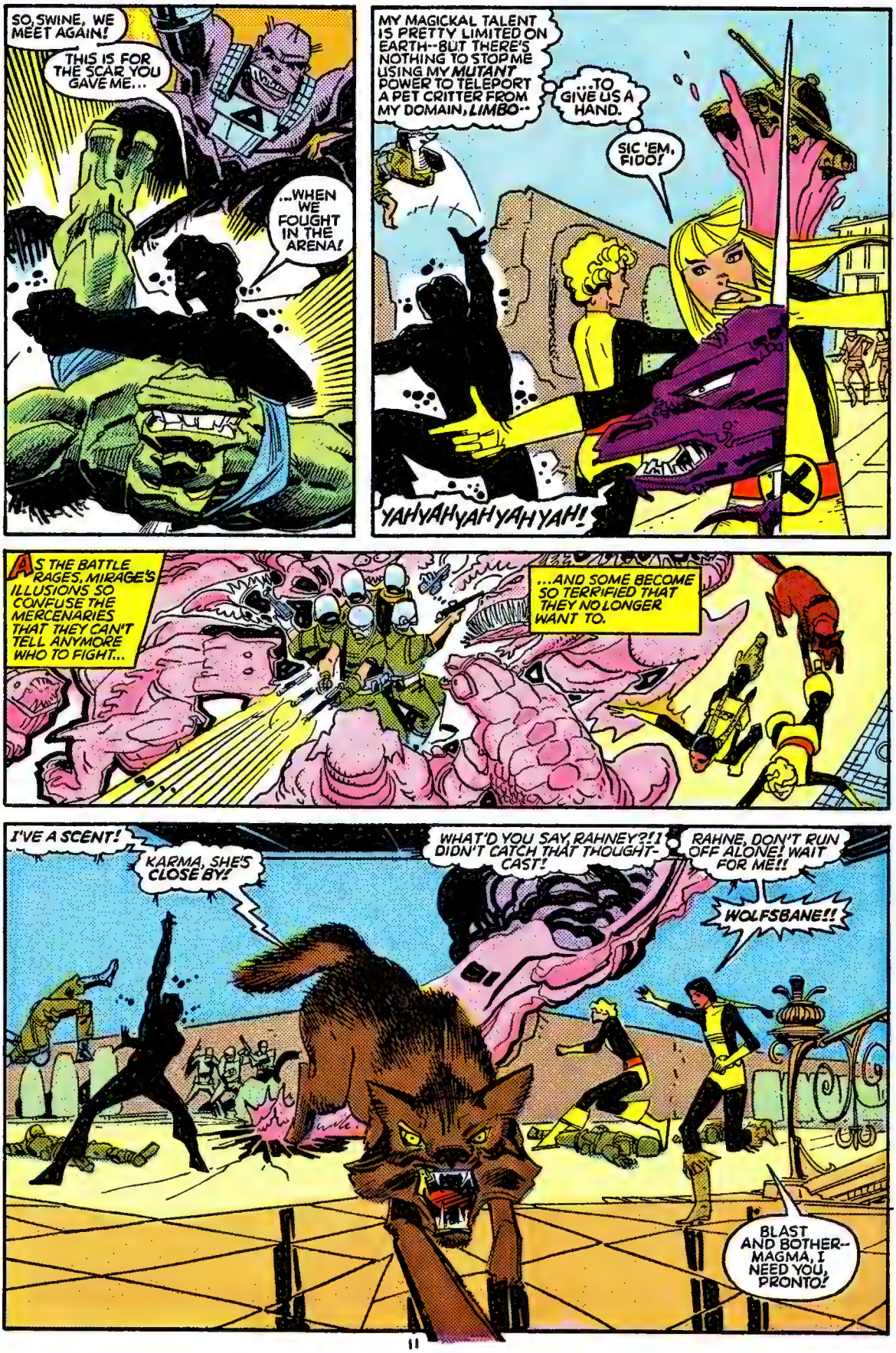

MIRAGE'S TALENT IS TO CAST REAL-AS-LIFE ILLUSIONS--IN THIS CASE, SO THAT THE STEWARDESS SEES PRECISELY WHAT SHE EXPECTS...
BUT I THOUGHT, I COULD HAVE SWORN--sigh!?!
...HER YOUNG CHARGES, SAFE AND SNUG IN THEIR BEDS, FAST ASLEEP.


THE NEXT MORNING, THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION, THE PACIFIC ISLAND NATION OF MADRIPOOR.
REAL HOSPITABLE FOLKS--TO GREET THEIR GUESTS WITH GUNS.
WATCH YOUR STEPS, CREW--BEHAVE, I MEAN IT! AND THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU, BOBBY!
Och, DANI--IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE SO BEASTLY HOT?!
WELCOME, FELLOW STUDENTS, TO EARTH'S VERSION OF MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT--A MODERN-DAY TORTUGA, HAVEN OF WORLD-CLASS PIRATES, CROOKS AND ASSORTED LESSER SCOUNDRELS.
NO EXTRADITION, AND GOVERNMENT SECURITY MAKE THIS THE PERFECT HIDEOUT, A SORT OF NEUTRAL ZONE WHERE THE DEADLIEST OF ENEMIES CAN HANG OUT IN ABSOLUTE COMFORT AND SAFETY, WITHOUT FEAR OF EACH OTHER OR FOREIGN COPS.
MADRIPOOR
ANY OTHER HELPFUL TIDBITS, RAMSEY?
YOU BETCHA, DaCOSTA! ME AND MY COMPUTER ARE JUST BRIMMING WITH 'EM!
CAN IT, BOYS--Y'ALL HEARD WHAT DANI SAID!
PARDON MY ASKING, O FEARLESS LEADER, BUT SINCE WE HAVE NO VISAS...
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO GET US PAST IMMIGRATION, hmnh?
WITH AN APPROPRIATE DIVERSION, 'BERTO...
DOUANIER CUSTOMS
EARTHQUAKE!
...COURTESY OF MAGMA.
SHE'S CREATING ENOUGH OF A TREMOR --COMPLETE WITH MINI-VOLCANO--TO GET EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION, WITHOUT DOING ANY SUBSTANTIAL HARM.
PERFECT, AMARA!
THEN...
WHUPAWHUPAWHUPAWHUP!
...UNNOTICED IN THE GENERAL CONFUSION...
...WARLOCK FLIES US ALL AWAY!

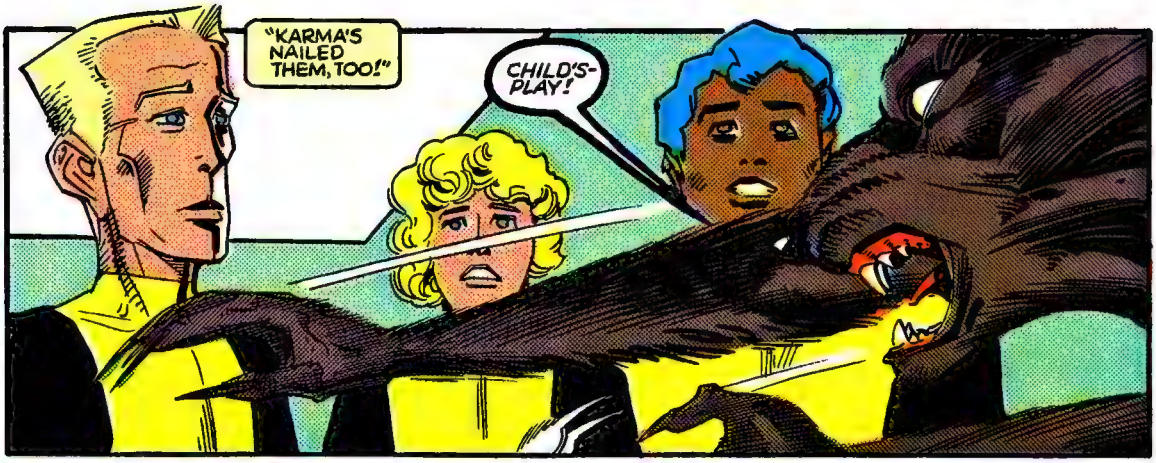

LATER...
LIMO COMIN', DANI.
STAY COOL, AMIGO, LET IT PASS.
HEY, BOBBY, I ACTED LIKE A REAL JERK BEFORE. I'M SORRY.
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED HOW MUCH THIS CAPER WAS TEARING YOU UP INSIDE...
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, HOMBRE?! THERE'S NOTHING THE MATTER WITH ME!
HE'S APOLOGIZING, ROBERTO! FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?!
'BERTO'S FUSE HAS BEEN GETTING SHORTER AND SHORTER EVER SINCE HE MET THAT BEYONDER CHARACTER--HE'S PULLING DEEP INSIDE HIMSELF, DELIBERATELY SHUTTING US OUT, THE WAY I USED TO.
I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW TO HELP. MOMENTS LIKE THIS, ALL I WANT TO DO IS BREAK HIS FACE, THE LITTLE TWERP!
THAT'S KARMA'S CAR--THE PRIVATE ARMY GIVES A PRETTY FAIR IDEA OF THE CLOUT SHE WIELDS IN THIS COUNTRY.
ACCORDING TO MY COMPUTER SEARCH OF THE LOCAL DATA BANKS, SHE OWNS THAT WHOLE MOUNTAIN BEHIND US, WITH A VILLA AT THE TOP.
WE'LL WAIT TILL NIGHTFALL...
...AND THEN PAY HER A VISIT.
DOUG, YOU AND WARLOCK WILL STAY HERE...
FIGURES.
...AS BACK-UP, IN CASE SOMETHING GOES WRONG. WE MAY NEED 'LOCKE'S POWER--AND ESPECIALLY YOUR BRAINS, DUMMY, ASSUMING YOU QUIT SULKING AND USE 'EM--
--TO YANK US OUT OF TROUBLE!
BETTER ALERT THE BOSS.
COMPANY'S COMING.
COLAS

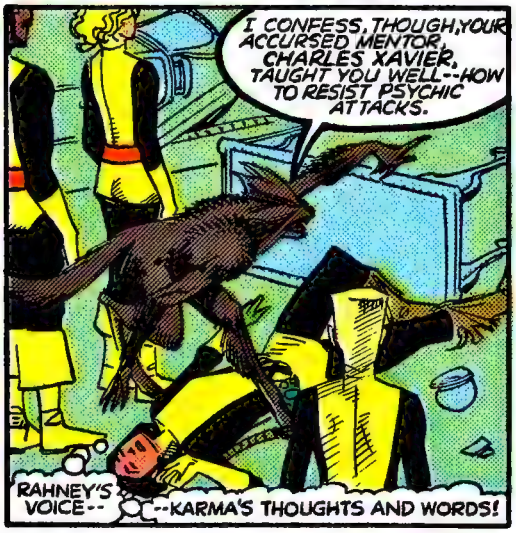

LATER STILL...
I COULD TELEPORT US...
TOO RISKY, ILLYANA.
SUPPOSE YOU LAND US IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GUARDS' BARRACKS?
DANI--
ANOTHER BOOBY TRAP!
GREAT WORK, RAHNEY!
FIND US A SAFE PATH AROUND IT.
GUARDS!
LET'S TAKE 'EM!
THAT JOB IS QUICKLY, SILENTLY DONE.
AND ONCE MORE, RAHNE USES HER ENHANCED WOLFEN SENSES TO GUIDE HER TEAMMATES TO THE VILLA...
...MAINTAINING CONSTANT CONTACT WITH HER SOUL-MATE, DANI, THROUGH THE SPECIAL PSIONIC RAPPORT THEY SHARE.
MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE BEACH...
FRIENDOUG...
...WHICH OF...
...SELF'S HUMANFORMS...
...DO YOU FIND...
...MOST PLEASING?
THEY'RE ALL FINE, WARLOCK.
BUT WHICH SHOULD SELF USE?
WHICHEVER YOU LIKE.
SELF'S FRIENDOUG RADIATING DISHARMONY --QUERY?
I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT THE TEAM.
I WISH I WAS WITH THEM.
THAT, DEAR BOY, CAN MOST SPEEDILY BE ARRANGED.
HUH?
PROGRAM 2 "TERMINAT
ALARM ALARM ALARM!?!
A 5 6

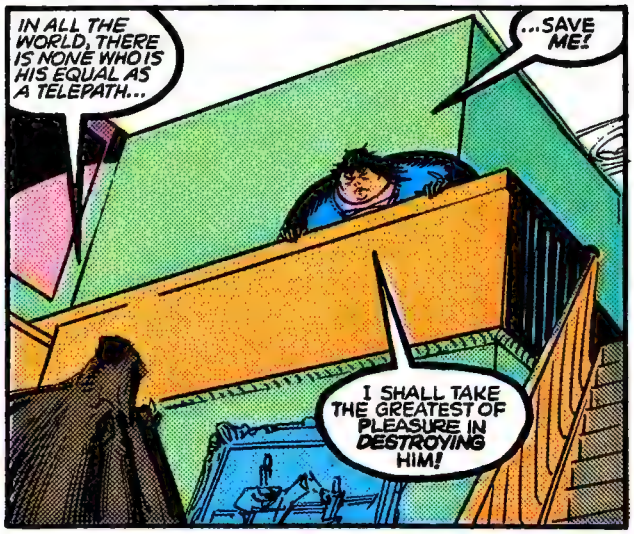

RAHNE, YOU PINPOINT THE OPPOSITION AND RELAY THEIR POSITIONS TO ME. MAGMA, SOFTEN UP THE COMPOUND WITH SOME MINOR 'QUAKES. THEN, SAM, YOU HIT THEM FROM THE AIR, WHILE BOBBY CLOBBERS THEM UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.
ILLYANA AND I'LL MOP UP WHOEVER'S LEFT.
AND REMEMBER, PEOPLE, WE'RE IN PUBLIC--FROM HERE ON, USE OUR CODENAMES!
OKAY! READY--SET--
--GO!
MIRAGE, THESE AIN'T NORMAL GUNHAWKS--THEY'RE GLADIATORS!
AH RECOGNIZE 'EM FROM THE ARENA IN LOS ANGELES!
KARMA MUST HAVE HIRED 'EM AS BODY-GUARDS AFTER WE SMASHED THAT OPERATION.
THEY'RE MUTANTS, LIKE US--
--ONLY THEY'RE HARD AN' CRUEL, THEY GOT NO COMPUNCTION ABOUT KILLING. SOME OF 'EM EVEN LIKE IT!
NICE ENTRANCE, CANNONBALL--THIS IS MY KIND'A DOOR!
FOLLOW MY LEAD--AND DON'T FORGET, WE ACT AS A TEAM!
YOU KNOW, MIRAGE, YOU'RE SOUNDING MORE AND MORE LIKE THE PROFESSOR EVERY DAY.
AND I, FOR ONE, AM NOT IMPRESSED.

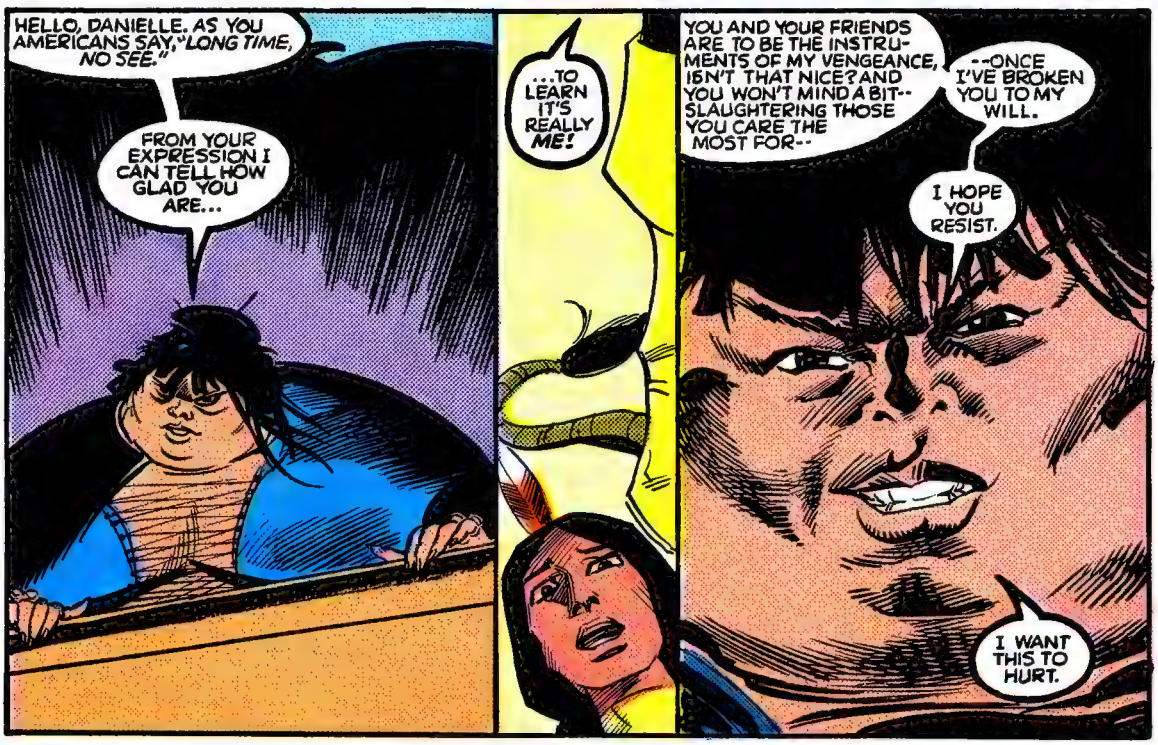

SO, SWINE, WE MEET AGAIN!
THIS IS FOR THE SCAR YOU GAVE ME...
...WHEN WE FOUGHT IN THE ARENA!
MY MAGICKAL TALENT IS PRETTY LIMITED ON EARTH--BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP ME USING MY MUTANT POWER TO TELEPORT A PET CRITTER FROM MY DOMAIN, LIMBO--
...TO GIVE US A HAND.
SIC 'EM, FIDO!
YAHYAHYAHYAHYAH!
AS THE BATTLE RAGES, MIRAGE'S ILLUSIONS SO CONFUSE THE MERCENARIES THAT THEY CAN'T TELL ANYMORE WHO TO FIGHT...
...AND SOME BECOME SO TERRIFIED THAT THEY NO LONGER WANT TO.
I'VE A SCENT!
KARMA, SHE'S CLOSE BY!
WHAT'D YOU SAY, RAHNEY?! I DIDN'T CATCH THAT THOUGHT-CAST!
RAHNE, DON'T RUN OFF ALONE! WAIT FOR ME!!
WOLFSBANE!!
BLAST AND BOTHER--MAGMA, I NEED YOU, PRONTO!

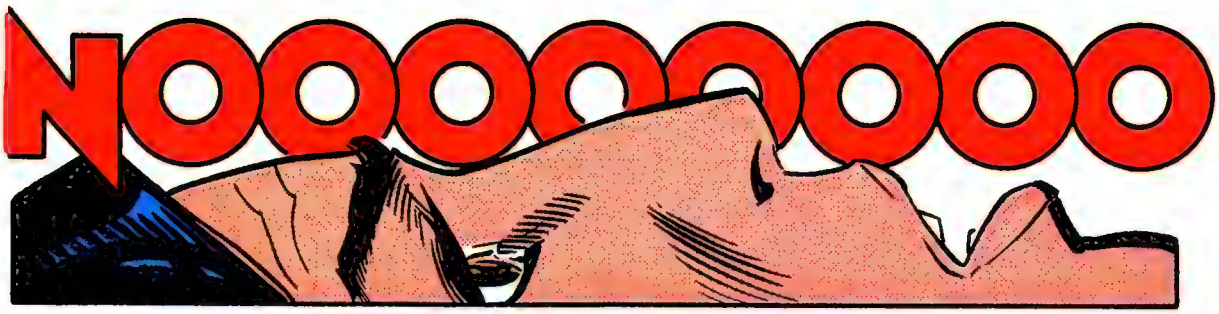
WOLFSBANE?!?
SPIRITS SAVE ME, I'LL MURDER HER!
CALM YOURSELF, DANI--RAHNE'S MERELY TRYING TO HELP.
IT'S THOSE GOOD INTENTIONS--AND THE SOLO STUNTS THAT RESULT--THAT CAUSE US THE MOST GRIEF!
I SHOULD KNOW, I'VE DONE MORE THAN MY SHARE.
I THOUGHT RAHNE HAD MORE SENSE.
SHE'S FAST AND STRONG--BUT SHE'S ALSO A LOT MORE OF A KID THAN THE REST OF US. SHE COULD BE THROWN OFF-BALANCE REAL EASILY.
A MOMENT IS ALL KARMA NEEDS...
...TO POSSESS HER.
OR ANY OF US.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO BE EXTRA-CAREFUL. I THOUGHT I MADE THAT CLEAR.
RAHNE ISN'T ANSWERING MY PSICALLS. WE BETTER ASSUME THE WORST--
--YAIAIEOW!?!
GRRARRWL!
KLONK!
GUYS--GRAB HER, STOP HER--
--oh, NO!

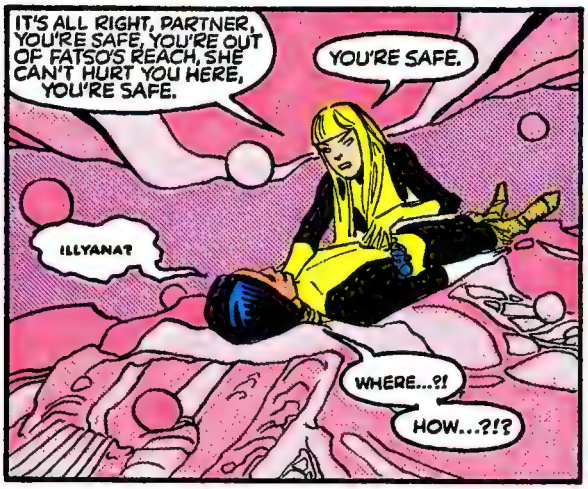

"KARMA'S NAILED THEM, TOO!"
CHILD'S-PLAY!

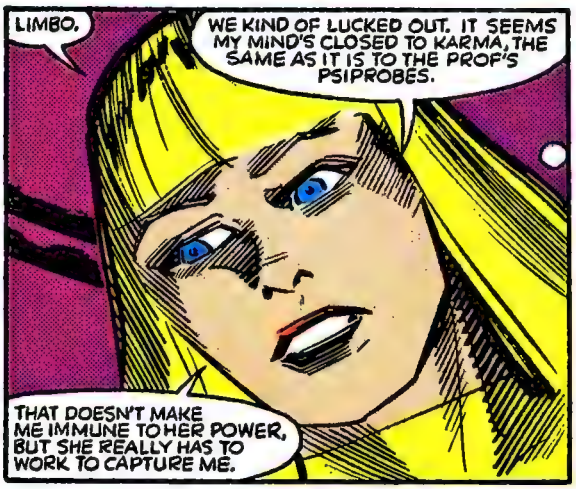

I CONFESS, THOUGH, YOUR ACCURSED MENTOR, CHARLES XAVIER, TAUGHT YOU WELL--HOW TO RESIST PSYCHIC ATTACKS.
RAHNEY'S VOICE--
--KARMA'S THOUGHTS AND WORDS!

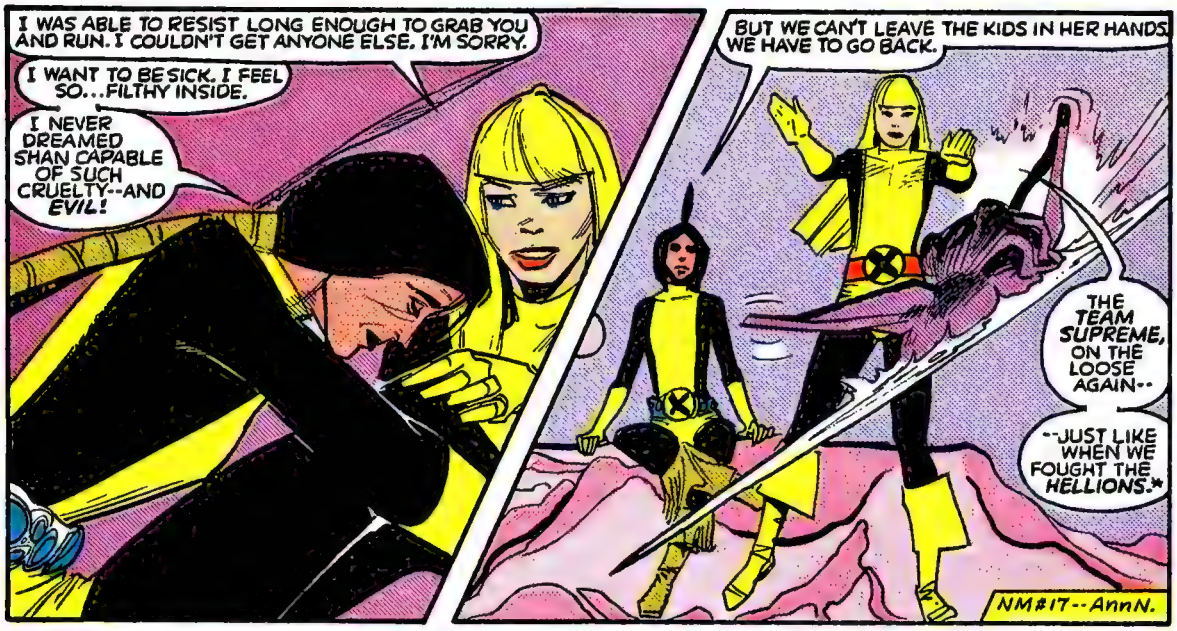

IN ALL THE WORLD, THERE IS NONE WHO IS HIS EQUAL AS A TELEPATH...
...SAVE ME!
I SHALL TAKE THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE IN DESTROYING HIM!

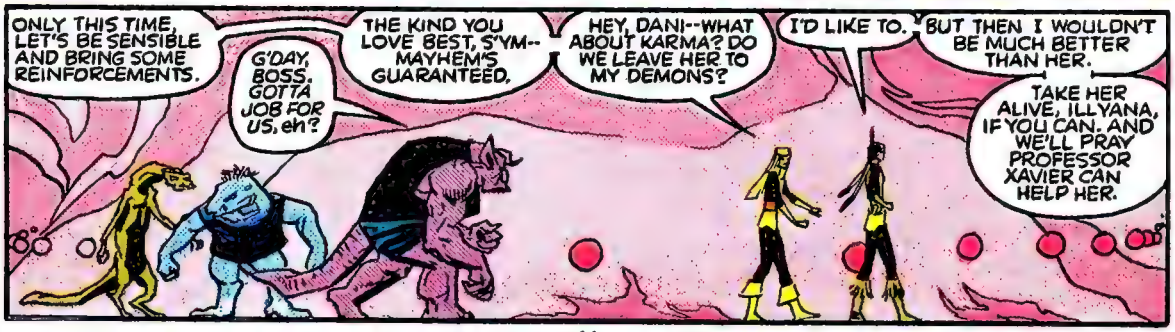

HELLO, DANIELLE. AS YOU AMERICANS SAY, "LONG TIME, NO SEE."
FROM YOUR EXPRESSION I CAN TELL HOW GLAD YOU ARE...
...TO LEARN IT'S REALLY ME!
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE TO BE THE INSTRUMENTS OF MY VENGEANCE, ISN'T THAT NICE? AND YOU WON'T MIND A BIT--SLAUGHTERING THOSE YOU CARE THE MOST FOR--
--ONCE I'VE BROKEN YOU TO MY WILL.
I HOPE YOU RESIST.
I WANT THIS TO HURT.

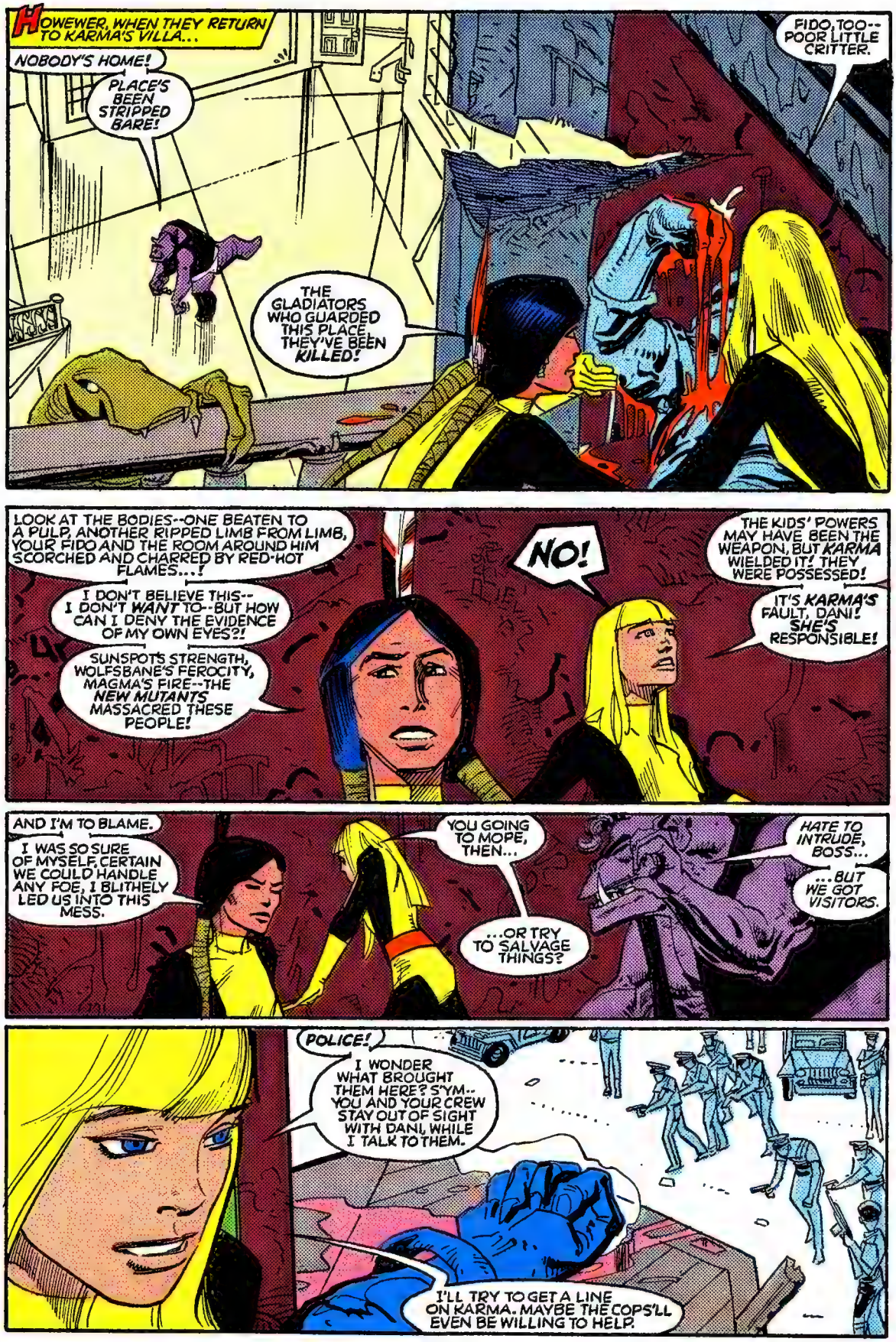

NOOOOOOOO


IT'S ALL RIGHT, PARTNER, YOU'RE SAFE, YOU'RE OUT OF FATSO'S REACH, SHE CAN'T HURT YOU HERE, YOU'RE SAFE.
YOU'RE SAFE.
ILLYANA?
WHERE...?!
HOW...?!?

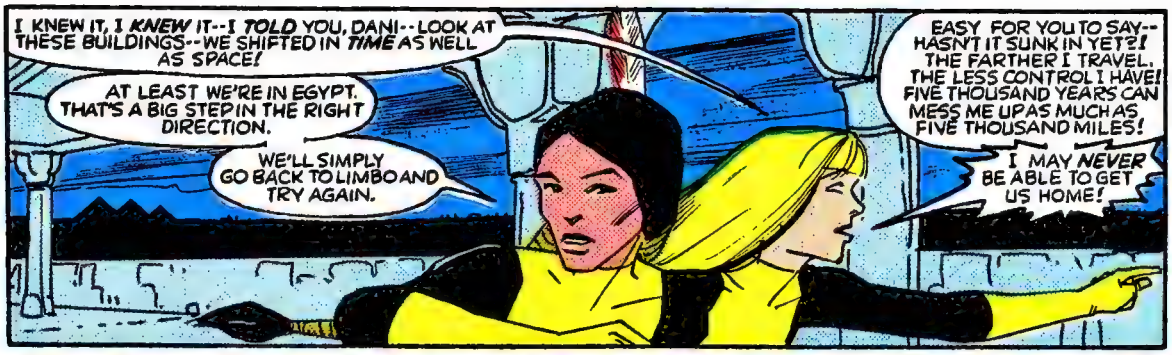

LIMBO.
WE KIND OF LUCKED OUT. IT SEEMS MY MIND'S CLOSED TO KARMA, THE SAME AS IT IS TO THE PROF'S PSIPROBES.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME IMMUNE TO HER POWER, BUT SHE REALLY HAS TO WORK TO CAPTURE ME.

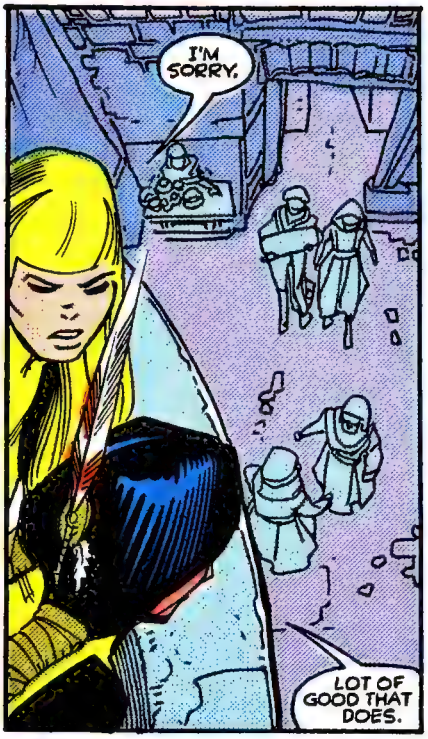

I WAS ABLE TO RESIST LONG ENOUGH TO GRAB YOU AND RUN. I COULDN'T GET ANYONE ELSE. I'M SORRY.
I WANT TO BE SICK. I FEEL SO...FILTHY INSIDE.
I NEVER DREAMED SHAN CAPABLE OF SUCH CRUELTY--AND EVIL!
BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE THE KIDS IN HER HANDS. WE HAVE TO GO BACK.
THE TEAM SUPREME, ON THE LOOSE AGAIN--
--JUST LIKE WHEN WE FOUGHT THE HELLIONS.*
NM#17--AnnN.

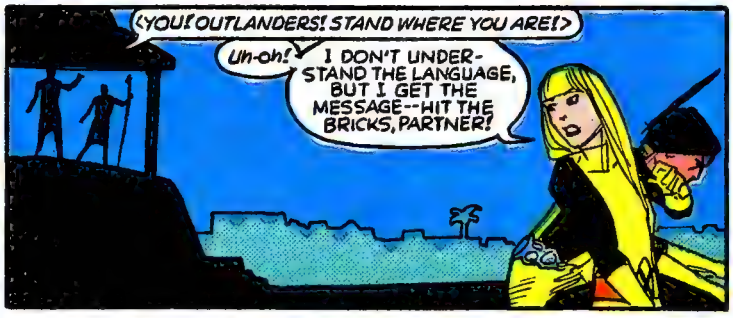

ONLY THIS TIME, LET'S BE SENSIBLE AND BRING SOME REINFORCEMENTS.
G'DAY, BOSS. GOTTA JOB FOR US, eh?
THE KIND YOU LOVE BEST, S'YM--MAYHEM'S GUARANTEED.
HEY, DANI--WHAT ABOUT KARMA? DO WE LEAVE HER TO MY DEMONS?
I'D LIKE TO.
BUT THEN I WOULDN'T BE MUCH BETTER THAN HER.
TAKE HER ALIVE, ILLYANA, IF YOU CAN. AND WE'LL PRAY PROFESSOR XAVIER CAN HELP HER.

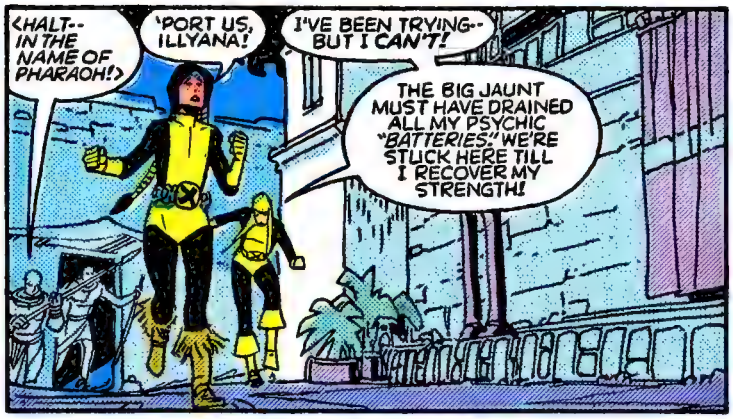

HOWEWER, WHEN THEY RETURN TO KARMA'S VILLA...
NOBODY'S HOME!
PLACE'S BEEN STRIPPED BARE!
THE GLADIATORS WHO GUARDED THIS PLACE THEY'VE BEEN KILLED!
FIDO, TOO--POOR LITTLE CRITTER.
LOOK AT THE BODIES--ONE BEATEN TO A PULP, ANOTHER RIPPED LIMB FROM LIMB, YOUR FIDO AND THE ROOM AROUND HIM SCORCHED AND CHARRED BY RED-HOT FLAMES...!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS--I DON'T WANT TO--BUT HOW CAN I DENY THE EVIDENCE OF MY OWN EYES?!
SUNSPOT'S STRENGTH, WOLFSBANE'S FEROCITY, MAGMA'S FIRE--THE NEW MUTANTS MASSACRED THESE PEOPLE!
NO!
THE KIDS' POWERS MAY HAVE BEEN THE WEAPON, BUT KARMA WIELDED IT! THEY WERE POSSESSED!
IT'S KARMA'S FAULT, DANI! SHE'S RESPONSIBLE!
AND I'M TO BLAME.
I WAS SO SURE OF MYSELF, CERTAIN WE COULD HANDLE ANY FOE, I BLITHELY LED US INTO THIS MESS.
YOU GOING TO MOPE, THEN...
...OR TRY TO SALVAGE THINGS?
HATE TO INTRUDE, BOSS...
...BUT WE GOT VISITORS.
POLICE!
I WONDER WHAT BROUGHT THEM HERE? S'YM--YOU AND YOUR CREW STAY OUT OF SIGHT WITH DANI, WHILE I TALK TO THEM.
I'LL TRY TO GET A LINE ON KARMA. MAYBE THE COPS'LL EVEN BE WILLING TO HELP.

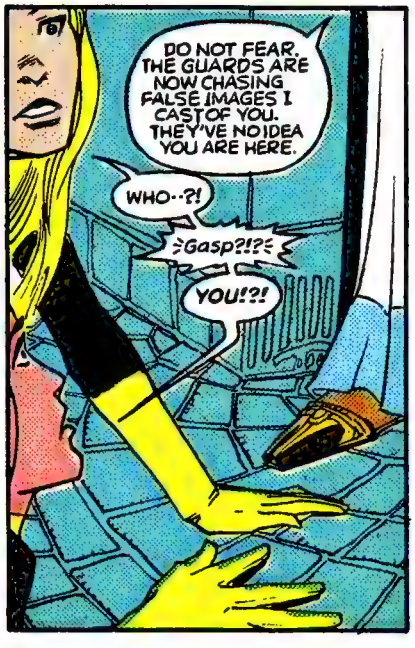
HEY FELLAS--?!
BUDDABUDDAPOWPOWPOW
LOOK OUT!
SO MUCH FOR THAT IDEA!
VAMOOSE, BOSS?
YAH!
BACK TO LIMBO!
KARMA FRAMED US!
SHE MUST HAVE TOLD THE LAW WE RAIDED HER PLACE. WE'LL BE BLAMED FOR THE MURDERS. IF WE SHOW OUR FACES IN MADRIPOOR, WE'LL PROBABLY BE SHOT ON SIGHT!
SO WHAT'LL WE DO?
ACCORDING TO DOUG'S RESEARCH, KARMA HAS ANOTHER PLACE IN CAIRO.
WE CAN BEAT HER THERE.
BY TELEPORTING?! NO WAY!!
YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THAT IS!
ILLYANA, WHATEVER WE DO--GO AFTER SHAN OR RUN HOME--
--WE'LL HAVE TO USE YOUR POWER TO GET THERE.
AT LEAST IN CAIRO, WE'LL BE OF SOME USE.
THIS IS CRAZY!
GOT A BETTER IDEA?
NO.
BUT WE'RE GOING TO REGRET THIS!


I KNEW IT, I KNEW IT--I TOLD YOU, DANI--LOOK AT THESE BUILDINGS--WE SHIFTED IN TIME AS WELL AS SPACE!
AT LEAST WE'RE IN EGYPT. THAT'S A BIG STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
WE'LL SIMPLY GO BACK TO LIMBO AND TRY AGAIN.
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY--HASN'T IT SUNK IN YET?! THE FARTHER I TRAVEL, THE LESS CONTROL I HAVE! FIVE THOUSAND YEARS CAN MESS ME UP AS MUCH AS FIVE THOUSAND MILES!
I MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO GET US HOME!

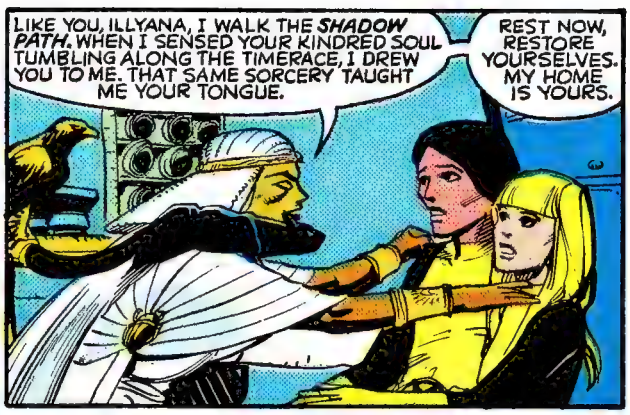





<HALT--IN THE NAME OF PHARAOH!>
'PORT US, ILLYANA!
I'VE BEEN TRYING--BUT I CAN'T!
THE BIG JAUNT MUST HAVE DRAINED ALL MY PSYCHIC "BATTERIES." WE'RE STUCK HERE TILL I RECOVER MY STRENGTH!



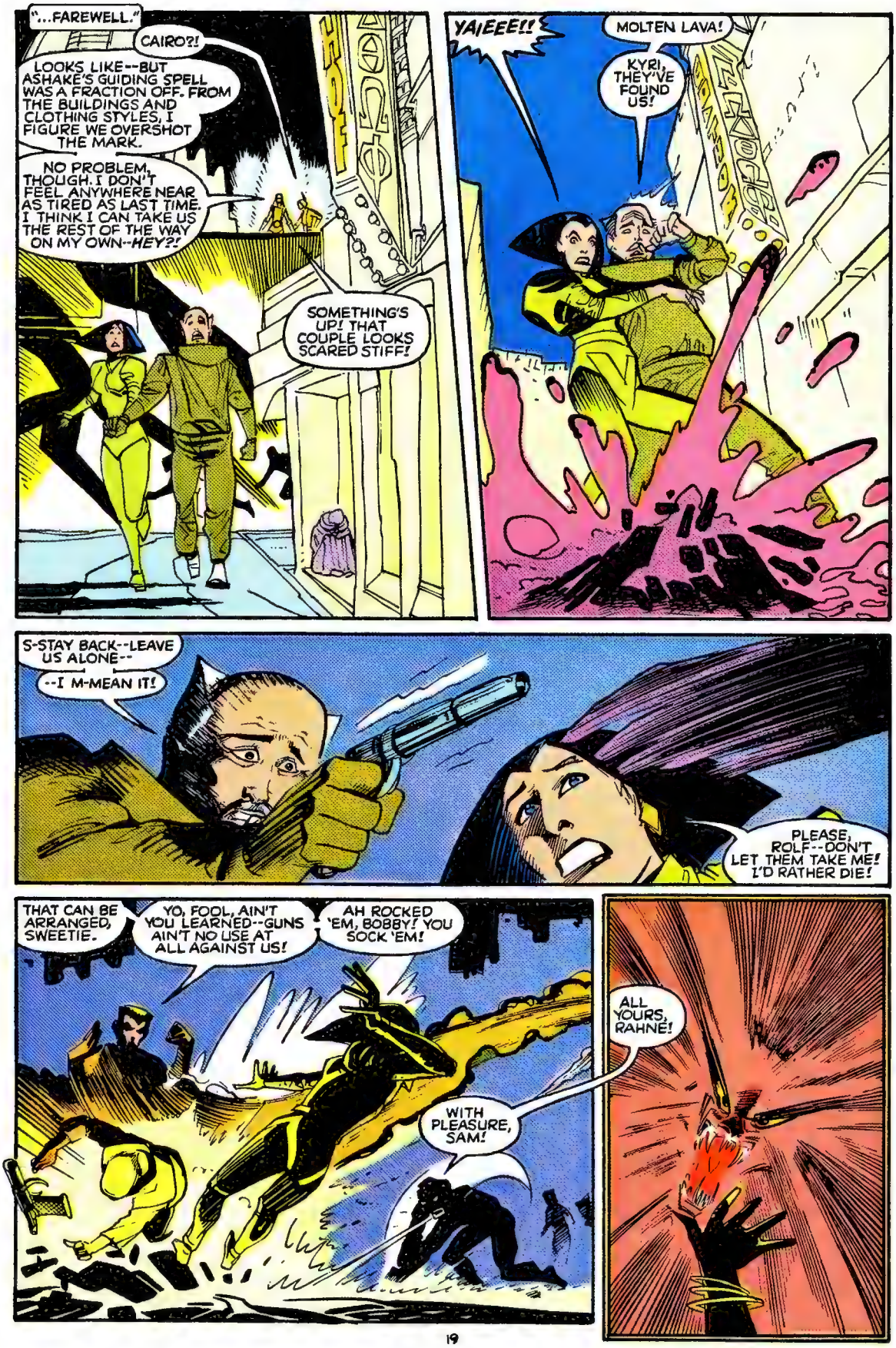
ORORO?!?
NO, CHILD. ASHAKE.
BUT I SEE IN YOUR MEMORIES THE FACE OF MY GRANDDAUGHTER MANY TIMES REMOVED. I AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT EVEN IN YOUR FARAWAY ERA...
...THE LINE--OUR BLOOD--YET RUNS TRUE.
IN HER NAME, I BID YOU WELCOME.

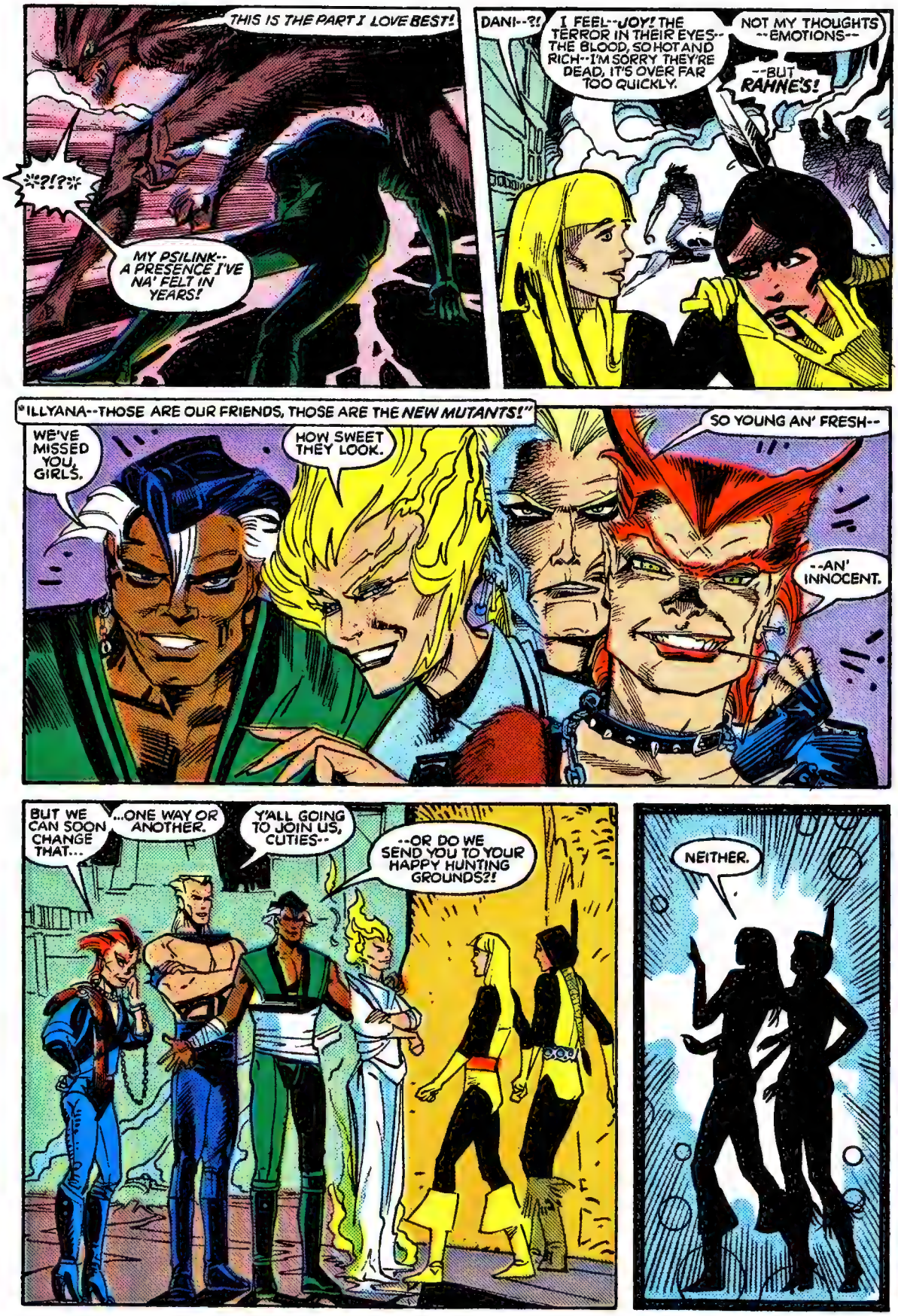

LIKE YOU, ILLYANA, I WALK THE SHADOW PATH. WHEN I SENSED YOUR KINDRED SOUL TUMBLING ALONG THE TIMERACE, I DREW YOU TO ME. THAT SAME SORCERY TAUGHT ME YOUR TONGUE.
REST NOW, RESTORE YOURSELVES. MY HOME IS YOURS.

WE SHALL TALK LATER.
QUESTIONS ANSWERED AND WISHES GRANTED.

THE FOLLOWING DAY...
C'MON, PARTNER, SNAP OUT OF IT!
EVERYONE'S ENTITLED TO THEIR SHARE OF SCREW-UPS.
LAY OFF, ILLYANA.

ASHAKE, COULDN'T YOU--?
NO. THIS DESPAIR--AND SELF-RAGE--DANI MUST OVERCOME BY HERSELF.
AND IF SHE DOESN'T?
I HAVE ENJOYED...
YOUR VISIT, YOUNG FRIENDS.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...


"...FAREWELL."
CAIRO?!
LOOKS LIKE--BUT ASHAKE'S GUIDING SPELL WAS A FRACTION OFF. FROM THE BUILDINGS AND CLOTHING STYLES, I FIGURE WE OVERSHOT THE MARK.
NO PROBLEM, THOUGH. I DON'T FEEL ANYWHERE NEAR AS TIRED AS LAST TIME. I THINK I CAN TAKE US THE REST OF THE WAY ON MY OWN--HEY?!
SOMETHING'S UP! THAT COUPLE LOOKS SCARED STIFF!
YAIEEE!!
MOLTEN LAVA!
KYRI, THEY'VE FOUND US!
S-STAY BACK--LEAVE US ALONE--
--I M-MEAN IT!
PLEASE, ROLF--DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME! I'D RATHER DIE!
THAT CAN BE ARRANGED, SWEETIE.
YO, FOOL, AIN'T YOU LEARNED--GUNS AIN'T NO USE AT ALL AGAINST US!
AH ROCKED 'EM, BOBBY! YOU SOCK 'EM!
WITH PLEASURE, SAM!
ALL YOURS, RAHNE!


THIS IS THE PART I LOVE BEST!
?!?!
MY PSILINK--A PRESENCE I'VE NA' FELT IN YEARS!
DANI--?!
I FEEL--JOY! THE TERROR IN THEIR EYES--THE BLOOD, SO HOT AND RICH--I'M SORRY THEY'RE DEAD, IT'S OVER FAR TOO QUICKLY.
NOT MY THOUGHTS --EMOTIONS--
--BUT RAHNE'S!
"ILLYANA--THOSE ARE OUR FRIENDS, THOSE ARE THE NEW MUTANTS!"
WE'VE MISSED YOU, GIRLS.
HOW SWEET THEY LOOK.
SO YOUNG AN' FRESH--
--AN' INNOCENT.
BUT WE CAN SOON CHANGE THAT...
...ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
Y'ALL GOING TO JOIN US, CUTIES--
--OR DO WE SEND YOU TO YOUR HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS?!
NEITHER.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

How to read THE X-MEN and THE NEW MUTANTS this summer by Ann Nocenti

Eighteen mutants live at the X-Mansion. And that's before guests and extended family. This summer they travel from Cairo to Canada to Asgard to Paris to Ethiopia . . . Oh, yeah, and somewhere in there, Nightcrawler takes a jaunt through the multiverse.

You know how Marvel is known for and proud of its continuity? Well all these stories interconnect — one flows right into the next! How wonderful, I thought — separate stories, yet one big awesome tale! Marvel's scheduling people — those magicians who work so hard to keep all our stories coming to you, our loyal readers, in a coherent order — well, they were going to strangle me for *this* one!

Then the ex-X-Men editor Louise Jones gave me a brilliant idea — a **scorecard!** That way everyone could know the essential order of things, like, if it's July we must be in Asgard. Then, Jim Shooter, the Continuity King himself, generously offered me his own Bullpen Bulletin page on which to present it! So here we are and here it is — the official order in which to read this summer's Mutant Masterpieces! (I'll list artist credits, but as for writers, CHRIS CLAREMONT brilliantly, miraculously wrote ALL of it . . . bless his heart and may he rest in peace.)

1. ☐ NEW MUTANTS #34 — In a mind-bending tale of who's possessing who, the Mutants fight EACH OTHER! Featuring fat, bad Karma! Meanwhile, in . . .

2. ☐ X-MEN #199 — Magneto has stepped in to replace Xavier (as if he could ever truly be replaced), initially to deal with the BEYONDER (see SECRET WARS III). How would you like it to find your old FOE is now your LEADER!? All this in the midst of a battle with the BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS, guest-starring SPIRAL (a renegade demoness from the LONGSHOT Limited Series). Magneto ends up a PRISONER to be tried before the WORLD COURT! But before that can happen . . .

3. ☐ X-MEN / ALPHA FLIGHT TEAM UP #1 and #2 (technically, this story occurs *way* back before Sasquatch's death, and Professor Xavier's mugging, and Rachel's new costume, and Guardian's resurrection, and . . . and . . . y'know, I may never forgive Chris for this) — Rachel receives a psychic distress call from her "father," CYCLOPS, and the X-Men rush to Canada to join Alpha Flight — to save the world from UTOPIA! With art by ex-X-Men artists PAUL SMITH and BOB WIACEK, this two-parter also debuts a new team — THE BERSERKERS! Anyway, the X-Men end up getting LOKI *real* mad, which is why in . . .

4. ☐ NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL #1 — The kids and Ororo are kidnapped by Loki and taken to Asgard, to serve as playthings for that sweetheart, THE ENCHANTRESS! But Loki has a special fate in store for Ororo — she's to become the new thunder goddess! All this in a 64 page, no ads special, art by ARTHUR ADAMS (*Longshot* artist) and TERRY AUSTIN. What could happen but . . .

5. ☐ X-MEN ANNUAL #9 — X-Men to the rescue! Only to find out — the New Mutants don't want to *be* rescued! Asgard is where their favorite fairytales come true and they want to stay there forever! Meanwhile, Loki is trying to give STORM back her powers and make her his queen! Who could resist? The X-Men pop back to earth in PARIS, just in time for . . .

6. ☐ X-MEN #200 — The Trial of Magneto! X-team Claremont, Romita Jr., Green and myself are all flying to Paris to plot this one; because we want every detail *perfect!* While Magneto tries to defend himself and mutantkind at his trial, the mysterious villains are busy destroying the X-Men's name all over Paris!

7. ☐ NEW MUTANTS #35 — Back home with the mutants in school, but their new teacher is MAGNETO and they don't like it one bit! This issue introduces *New* Mutant artist-extraordinaire MARY WILSHIRE, inked by "old" BILL SIENKIEWICZ!

•Whew• So have fun, and write me to let me know what you think! Thank you, and good night.

MIGHTY MARVEL SUMMER CONVENTION CALENDAR

It's summertime ‹ we all know what that means! Beaches, camping, and . . . *Comic Conventions!!!* The bullpen is buzzing with excitement about all the great places they'll be going so they can meet their favorite people — YOU! And here are some of the conventions they'll be visiting:

COLORADO COMIC ART CONVENTION in Denver (June 22-23) — Mike (STARSTRUCK) Kaluta and Elaine (STARSTRUCK) Lee.

HEROES CONVENTION in Charlotte, NC (June 22-23) — Sergio (GROO) Aragonés, Mark (SQUADRON SUPREME) Gruenwald and Art (LONGSHOT) Adams.

AMERICAN HEROES CONVENTION in Detroit, Mich. (June 29-30) — Sid (STAR COMICS) Jacobson, Louise (POWER PACK) Simonson, Terry (CLOAK AND DAGGER) Austin and Larry (G.I. JOE) Hama. This con will benefit Children's Hospital.

CHICAGO COMICON (July 5-7 — Jim (SECRET WARS II) Shooter, Tom (SPIDER-MAN) DeFalco, Jim (CONAN) Owsley, Sergio Aragonés, Peter (DEFENDERS) Gillis, and our Art Director, John Romita, Sr.

DALLAS FANTASY FESTIVAL (July 5-7) — Steve (WEST COAST AVENGERS) Englehart, Wendy (ELFQUEST) Pini, Mike Kaluta and Elaine Lee.

HOUSTON COMICSFAIR (July 26-28) — Paul (DR. STRANGE) Smith, Richard (ELFQUEST) Pini, Bob (X-FACTOR) Layton, Jackson (SWASHBUCKLERS) Guice, Chris (X-MEN) Claremont, Jo (STAR WARS) Duffy, David (ALADDIN EFFECT) Michelinie, Marc (MOONSHADOW) DeMatteis, Terry Austin, Elaine Lee and Jim Shooter.

ATLANTA FANTASY FAIR (August 1-4) — Archie (EPIC) Goodwin, Denny (DAREDEVIL) O'Neil, Jim (DREADSTAR) Starlin and Carl (ALIEN LEGION) Potts.

SAN DIEGO COMICON (August 1-4) — Walt (THOR) Simonson, Bill (NEW MUTANTS) Sienkiewicz, Ralph (SOLOMON KANE) Macchio, Ann (LONGSHOT) Nocenti, Steve (SECRET WARS II) Leialoha, Trina (MISTY) Robbins, Richard (VISION & SCARLET WITCH) Howell, Peter Gillis, Elaine Lee, Sergio Aragonés, Art Adams, Mark Gruenwald, Louise Simonson, David Michelinie, Chris Claremont and Jim Shooter.

Wow! The summer of '85 is going to be a *hot one!* In fact, your favorite Marvel creators will be appearing at many more cons throughout the summer, but they're just too numerous to list here! Check with your local comic shop or in your favorite fanzine to find out when one will be in your area! And when you're at a con and you see some Marvel folks you'd like to meet, don't forget that they want to meet you, too! So step right up and say, "Hi!"

CHECKLIST

- ☐ THE THING #28
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #223
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #32
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #7
- ☐ RAWHIDE KID (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ SECTAURS #3
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #1
- ☐ LIFE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #269
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #310
- ☐ POWER PACK #15
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #13
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #27
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #73
- ☐ LONGSHOT (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #5
- ☐ VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #1
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #312
- ☐ AVENGERS #260
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #175
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #180
- ☐ X-MEN #198
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #4
- ☐ G.I. JOE #40
- ☐ ROM #71
- ☐ ETERNALS (Limited Series) #1
- ☐ AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE #2
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #283
- ☐ IRON MAN #199
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #107
- ☐ DEFENDERS #148
- ☐ THOR #360
- ☐ SECRET WARS II (Limited Series#4
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #9
- ☐ STAR WARS #100
- ☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #7
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #13

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ MARVEL AGE #31
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #116
- ☐ SUPER SPECIAL #38: RED SONJA

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ DREADSTAR AND COMPANY #4
- ☐ STARSTRUCK #4
- ☐ BLACK DRAGON (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #8
- ☐ SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #5
- ☐ DREADSTAR #20
- ☐ ELFQUEST #3
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #9

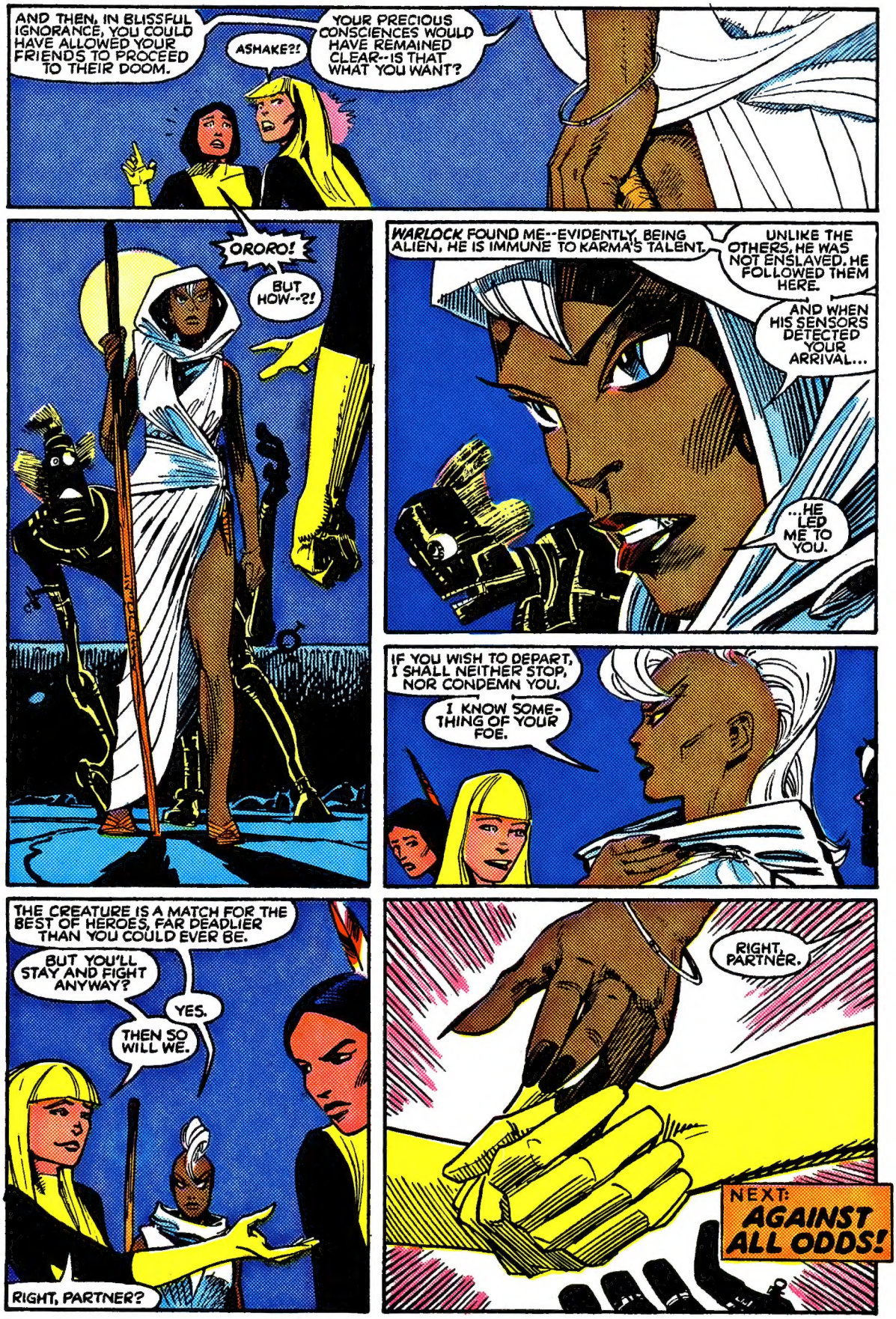
STAR COMICS

- ☐ PLANET TERRY #7
- ☐ FRAGGLE ROCK #4
- ☐ STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #4
- ☐ WALLY THE WIZARD #7
- ☐ TOP DOG #4
- ☐ HEATHCLIFF #4

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ GN #17: REVENGE OF THE LIVING MONOLITH

SAME PLACE, PARTNER.
RIGHT TIME.
I HOPE.
PHARAOH
NO!
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!
I WISH I COULD CRY LIKE THAT, DANI--FEEL THE PAIN AND GRIEF YOU DO. THEN, MAYBE, WE COULD COMFORT EACH OTHER.
BUT I HAVE TO KEEP MY HEART LOCKED UP TIGHT--TO PROTECT IT FROM THE EVIL IN MY SOUL.
PART OF ME WANTED SO MUCH TO STAY WITH THOSE FUTURE MUTANTS.
YOU'RE THE BOSS, DANI--ANY MORE BRIGHT IDEAS?
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?! I TRIED MY BEST, I DID WHAT I THOUGHT WAS RIGHT!
BUT HOW CAN WE DEFEAT SUCH A VILLIAN, SUCH POWER?!!
FOR OUR FRIENDS' SAKE, WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY.
WHY BOTHER?! WHAT'S THE POINT?!! IT'S THE HELLIONS CAPER ALL OVER AGAIN--AND JUST LIKE THEN, WE DON'T KNOW IF WHAT WE SAW IS THE SHAPE OF THINGS THAT *WILL* BE, OR THAT *MIGHT*?!
YOU'RE THE SORCERESS, ILLYANA--YOU'RE THE TIME TRAVELER--YOU TELL ME!
CAN WE CHANGE THE FUTURE?!
THE PHARAOH
I DON'T KNOW! I CAN MAKE THE POWER WORK, BUT PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING BEYOND THAT IS A MYSTERY!
AND DON'T YOU YELL AT ME, DANIELLE MOONSTAR!
NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED--WE WOULDN'T HAVE SEEN A THING--IF YOU HADN'T MADE ME *USE* THAT POWER IN THE FIRST PLACE!


AND THEN, IN BLISSFUL IGNORANCE, YOU COULD HAVE ALLOWED YOUR FRIENDS TO PROCEED TO THEIR DOOM.
ASHAKE?!
YOUR PRECIOUS CONSCIENCES WOULD HAVE REMAINED CLEAR--IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
ORORO!
BUT HOW--?!
WARLOCK FOUND ME--EVIDENTLY, BEING ALIEN, HE IS IMMUNE TO KARMA'S TALENT.
UNLIKE THE OTHERS, HE WAS NOT ENSLAVED. HE FOLLOWED THEM HERE.
AND WHEN HIS SENSORS DETECTED YOUR ARRIVAL...
...HE LED ME TO YOU.
IF YOU WISH TO DEPART, I SHALL NEITHER STOP, NOR CONDEMN YOU.
I KNOW SOMETHING OF YOUR FOE.
THE CREATURE IS A MATCH FOR THE BEST OF HEROES, FAR DEADLIER THAN YOU COULD EVER BE.
BUT YOU'LL STAY AND FIGHT ANYWAY?
YES.
THEN SO WILL WE.
RIGHT, PARTNER?
RIGHT, PARTNER.
NEXT:
AGAINST ALL ODDS!

REPORT CARD

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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rahne,

Page 8 reminded me why I hate you so much. Kurt should not be judged on his *appearance*, anymore than a person should be judged because he / she is a mutant. Like Kurt said, "It's what a person is — inside — that counts." Rahne, please, try to understand. Kurt is not a demon. He is blue, furry and has a tail for the same reason that you can turn into a wolf — *he is a mutant!* That does not make him a demon. He is a kind, loving *human being*.

Rahne, I just realised that hating you because you didn't / wouldn't / couldn't accept that Kurt was human would be the same as hating mutants because they are mutants. I can't judge because I'm not you, and I wasn't raised the same way. So I guess I really don't hate you . . .

I think I'm frustrated that someone as sensitive as you can't understand and accept Kurt Wagner, a wonderful human being.

Lynn Tucker
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All that's happening, Lynn, is that Rahne is going through the same process of self-realization and growth that you exemplify in your letter — it's just taking a little longer for her.

Ann, Chris, Bob, Tom, and Bill,

So okay! Between NEW MUTANTS #23 and the ANNUAL, you've finally persuaded me to write to a lettercol after over a year's silence. Why? Cloak & Dagger and Lila Cheny. That's why!

I enjoyed the brief view of the Hellfire Club in NM #23, but am certain that it bodes not at all well for Roberto. The powers of Cloak & Dagger are eating two New Mutants. How these serious (and potentially fatal) circumstances came to be is beyond me — I sure hope you have a really good explanation. And, of course, I expect that Cloak & Dagger are too human to really leave these powers behind, considering the damage that may result. My guess is that they will renounce their newfound humanity to save the mutants.

On to the ANNUAL. Lovely cover — Sam in punk drag and a mysterious tough (but gorgeous) lady. Hmmm. "Steal this Planet!" a.k.a. "The Cosmic Cannonball Caper." Two great titles. From the plash page, it is clear that the tale is going to feature Sam. Good. Interesting character, not used enough to date.

Date. Cute. It would appear that Sam's social life has a chance to change for the better. Lila Cheney. Interesting.

What circumstances could make someone want to steal Earth? "Seemed only fair. Earth sold me." Say what? No further explanation. Seems likely that Ms. Cheney will be back, right? Hope so. She works for me.

Liked the bits with Dani and her recuperation. She's tough, but not too tough, and that's good. She wants to have things the way they were, but she wants it that way **NOW!** Typical of most people. Makes her more real, more likeable. Frustration can be endearing. Especially when fought with such determination.

Loved Roberto's being second banana to Sam. Even matinee idols never win all the time, in real life, anyway. He's a poor loser. Seems consistent. Rahne is used poorly here. Others get good character bits. She gets to fight. Others interact constantly. She has one brief interaction with Dani that is of any real conviction. Double-sized story, right? Sam gets double-sized exposure. Good. Deserves it. Others showcased to some extent. Rahne deserves better. Classy lady. Only real flaw in Annual.

By the way, did you notice that the story was presented in a more fragmented manner than usual. Two and three panel fragments. Page and a half sequence. It was more fragmented than the average comic by a great many times, and yet it worked beautifully. Perhaps because of the character of Lila Cheney.

Keep up the good work. And bring back Lila Cheney.

Sheldon A. Welbe
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Comments. Made sense, Lila's been back, relationship with Sam deepened. New ANNUAL in works — New Mutants go to Asgard. Artwork by Arthur Adams — guaranteed to knock your socks off. Adams is the artist for the LONGSHOT Limited series — good, bizarre, on sale now. Annual's inked by Terry Austin. The team clicks. The story's top shelf. Keep reading, Sheldon. We'll bring back Lila. How could we stop her? The lady does — and gets — what she wants.

Dear Ann, Peter, Chris, and the rest of the gang:

Needless to say, I think that the NEW MUTANTS is just about the best comic out since the X-MEN. The stories in the book are very realistic because of the way the characters are handled. It has all the qualities that make up real life: joy, pain, anger, love, and the lessons that are to be taught in life. When the X-MEN first came into my life, five or six years back, the stories taught me valuable lessons about life and how to deal with all the curve balls it throws at you. Now the NEW MUTANTS are doing the same thing for the next generation in a manner befitting the problems of life today.

Even in the comics you hear that there are standards that should always be upheld; such as when the professor reminded Sam that he was supposed to dress more appropriately than he was. And that no matter how good her intentions, Illyana should have waited for the Professor to agree on her idea to take Roberto and Rahne into Limbo.

I like the way Dani is maturing in the story. In spite of all that has happened to her she is still performing like a good leader. Caring as much as she does about Rahne to throw caution to the wind and run up the stairs to look for her. And the way she handled the embarassing situation when Sam ran into her room when she was still getting dressed. Most girls her age would have screamed and made a big thing out of it all, but she handled it like an adult.

Well, thanks for the NEW MUTANTS and keep them coming. By the way, are you going to tell us any of the details on the missing mutant *Karma* or will we just have to wait it out and see if she'll want her position as team leader back or . . . anything else?

Michael R. Lusk
45 Woodland Park
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

As you saw this issue, Karma's fate is revealed, and continues in this three-part extravaganza penciled and inked by our favourite Hawaiian ace artisto, Steve Leialoha. Steve's superlative inking skills, we might add, are currently on view over Al Milgrom's pretty nifty pencils in SECRET WARS II, written of course by our fearless leader Jim Shooter. We've read the first issue, and it's a knock-out! It features the arrival on Earth of the Beyonder and a not-so-regular guy, Steward Cadwall, who gets super-powers. Cadwall figures *he* knows what's wrong with America and sets about 'fixing' it. You've *got* to hear this guy's 'world-view' to believe it. Meanwhile, the Beyonder begins his journey — the odyssey of a god!

Dear Folks,

Every 30 days or so, is the highlight of my month — I buy the latest issue of the NEW MUTANTS, only hours after it hits the stands. And each time, after the last page has been turned, the last panel savoured, I feel a twinge of guilt. Did you ever realize how lucky we are? How privileged? Have you ever stopped to think about the millions of deprived souls out there who go through life without the benefit of a monthly mutant fix?

Imagine existence barren of Sienkiewicz's dazzling cover paintings and avant-garde illustration, devoid of Claremont's legendary scenarios and subplots, narratives and nuances. How drab the world would look, drained of Wein's irridescent coloring, deprived of Orzechowski's immaculate printing and dramatic titles! And where would be be without the steady gulding hands of Nocenti and Sanderson?

I find it hard to believe that there are still people who put up with such a mundane reality. I wonder why they do? Can't be the price. Even old Ebenezer, were he around today, wouldn't begrudge a mere 65 cents. Especially for an ongoing masterpiece like this! Could it be that there are still those who are oblivious to the fact that comics go beyond Archie and Casper the Friendly Ghost? Amazing, but sadly true. Let us never waver in our quest to bring enlightenment to those who labour under such misconceptions.

But as for those who know but do not care, well, I just plain feel sorry for 'em.

Alison Humphrey
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Wow!

Next issue: Storm, Warlock, Mirage and Magik confront their former teammate Karma in a desperate last ditch attempt to save their possessed teammates, but their cause seems lost from the start — for one of their number will betray them.

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST